

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 69

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2020

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2nd COVID-19 death in NMI

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A second patient who tested positive for COVID-19 died yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to a statement from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

The patient was a 77-year-old woman who was seen at CHC last March 28 and was considered to be a "person under investigation." The patient also had underlying medical conditions.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of our community member. Our thoughts are with the deceased's family during this difficult time," said

See DEATH on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, April 7, 2020:

GUAM	CNMI
Positive: 104*, 9**	Positive: 8
Recovered: 25	Pending: 10
Deaths: 4	Deaths: 2

*Tested by Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services Public Health Lab

**Tested by the Naval Health Research Center in California

Source: Joint Information Center-Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.



SHOPPING INSTRUCTIONS

With instructions to observe social distancing as a means to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections in the CNMI, grocery shopping has become more complicated, with many stores instructing customers to observe the 6-foot distance among themselves.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Govt to terminate, furlough workers

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI government is looking at terminating excepted service employees, and furloughing Civil Service employees for one year, to cut government personnel costs by half.

Due to the negative economic impact of COVID-19 in the CNMI,

See GOVT on Page 4

PSS injunction pushed back to June 23

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The injunction filed by the Public School System that would force the CNMI government to allot PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue has been pushed back to a later date.

See PSS on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan Tribune talks with some of those who went through the 14-day quarantine.

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BUSINESS

A bakery on Tinian has donated to the island's health care workers and first responders.

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WORLD

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is moved to the intensive care unit of a hospital.

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Local

'It was like being inside a luxurious jail'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

For one 19-year-old resident who just returned to the CNMI from the U.S. mainland and got snared in the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement to ensure that they are not infected with the coronavirus, being made to go in isolation was not that bad.

"Honestly, it feels like a very luxurious jail," the person said. "I spend most of my time admiring the beach and sunsets on my balcony."

Although they were allowed to walk or jog around appointed boundaries of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, where they stayed, she wishes that she could have fully enjoyed the ocean that's in front of her, but she completely understands that this was for everyone's sake in order to help "stop the spread."

The returning resident, who agreed to speak with *Saipan Tribune* on the condition of anonymity, said that the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force was very hospitable and went out of their way to make sure that their stay was as comfortable as possible.

Now that she's out of quarantine, she's most excited to see her family after a long time being away, seeing her little cousin, and getting the chance to watch sunsets on the beach itself.

Another returning resident, also 19, had a different experience. "After our transition from Kanoa Resort, it was a



Buses of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority are used to transport individuals in quarantine from Kanoa Resort in Susupe to Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio. **COTA**

bit unorganized and I feel like the services at Kanoa were better than at PIC," he said.

Unlike the other 19-year-old, he spent most of his time scrolling through social media and watching shows on his television to pass the time.

He's most excited to finally sink his toes in the sand, and enjoy the water after a long time of being away from home. Additionally, he believes that once the world beats COVID-19, the CNMI will be able to go back to normalcy, maybe slowly but

surely. "I feel like everything will go back to normal for sure, but like all other seasonal flu, it will infect thousands of lives until it reaches its peak, and only then will it start to die down," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered the mandatory 14-day quarantine for all returning residents who have travelled off-island to a state/country that has confirmed cases of the coronavirus, in a bid to stem the spread of the virus in the CNMI.

Another who is still in quar-

antine said that he's been treated well above his expectations, knowing that he shouldn't expect much interaction. He spends his time mostly catching up on homework and friends and family over social media with the WiFi that PIC has provided.

"I'm most excited to be back home with my family and friends and also having physical and social interaction, while also practicing social distancing," he said. "I believe everything will go back to normal but it will take time. The CNMI is resilient. We've been through Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu and that gives me hope as a fellow islander in this pandemic that everything will remain normal with time," he said.

He does wonder if the many workers who have been laid off will still be able to get their jobs back, if businesses will have the capacity to employ as many people as it did before, and if the education system will return to the way it was.

Zach (not his real name), 20, found his experience frightening because he was alone at the hotel and can't see his family yet. "I arrived last week and am currently under quarantine and it's pretty sad to not be able to be with my family. I feel scared as well because this is a real-life crisis and I just hope people would take this seriously."

A man who has just arrived from the Philippines and has been in quarantine with

ing constructed in Garapan.

U.S.A. Fanter also asked the court to attach a mechanic's lien to IPI's interests in the real property on the project. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

Last Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered that for the lien amount of \$2.89 million U.S.A. Fanter shall have a mechanic's lien to attach upon the improvements of IPI's hotel-casino complex in Garapan.

Manglona ordered that U.S.A. Fanter shall also have a mechanic's lien to attach upon the real property interest of IPI in Garapan in a lot containing an area of 1.567 hectares.

The fee simple owner of the lot is the Commonwealth Investment Company LLC. IPI has a lease on that piece of land.

that this is for the better.

"We practice social distancing by taking separate elevators to the first floor, and we have to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times and we have authorities watching us as well," said one.

"We got fed three times a day and the food was wonderful with reasonable proportions," said the other. The procedure for food delivery from the staff at PIC is that they deliver the meals to the doors of those in quarantine, and then they can retrieve it when the delivery men are gone or nowhere near the doors.

They all agreed that there's nothing wrong with how quarantine runs, and that they appreciate all the hard work and sacrifices that the staff at PIC, the COVID-19 Task Force, and first responders make for them.

They all emphasized that everyone should take this pandemic very seriously, that everyone should always wash their hands thoroughly, disinfect their devices, and keep to a healthy lifestyle since everyone needs their health "on top of the game."

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, medical professionals monitor those in quarantine for any symptoms within 14 days, including the last day. If a patient presents symptoms, then they'll be re-evaluated and considered for isolation.

"So far, the system has been working smoothly," he said. **(With Krizel Tuazon)**

Attao pushes legislative action to remedy 25% retiree pension cut

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With CNMI government retirees bound to receive 25% less of their pension come April 15, legislators are proposing solutions to ensure such a predicament would not happen again moving forward.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) is one of those eyeing a legislative solution.

Attao is the author of House Bill 21-76, a bill that aims to repeal Public Law 20-10, and that would guarantee the 25% of the retirees' pension through a set amount of \$15 million collected from the annual casino license fee, instead of from the casino gross revenue tax collections.

P.L. 20-10 designated the casino GRT collection, which are susceptible to fluctuations, as the source of the retirees' pension, while the more stable license fee collections get allotted to the senatorial dis-

Former contractor wants default judgment vs IPI for not responding to defamation suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former construction contractor for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC filed yesterday a motion for entry of default against IPI for allegedly failing to answer its defamation lawsuit.

U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd., through counsel Samuel I. Mok, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to grant its motion for entry of default, asserting that IPI has failed to plead or defend the lawsuit within 21 days of being served the summons and complaint.

Mok said the lawsuit was filed in court last Feb. 24 and that IPI was personally served through its registered agent with the summons and complaint last March 11.

2019, respectively.

Mok said IPI stated that U.S.A. Fanter purportedly lied about the actual construction work performed, issued false reports, forged project quantity numbers, forged a payment,

fabricated units of material used, fabricated prices, and double-billed for work performed.

Mok said IPI's statements were false and defamatory and that U.S.A. Fanter's business reputation was adversely affected as a result.

U.S.A. Fanter has filed a separate lawsuit in federal court against IPI for allegedly refusing to pay \$2.08 million for construction work related to the VIP wing and exterior work of IPI's hotel-casino be-



Mok
U.S.A. Fanter has filed a separate lawsuit in federal court against IPI for allegedly refusing to pay \$2.08 million for construction work related to the VIP wing and exterior work of IPI's hotel-casino be-

tricts, among others.

Attao's bill states that "funds from the casino GRT are inconsistent and possibly even insufficient to cover the 25% pension for all the CNMI retirees". Further, it proposes that the law that took the collective \$13 million of the casino license fee allotted to the senatorial districts must be repealed to secure the 25% funding of the retiree pension.

The bill, however, is not a reaction to the impending pension cut, but rather, a reiteration of the need to ensure that money to cover the 25% of the pension is secured. In fact, Attao introduced such a legislation as early as 2015, during his first term as a member of the House of Representatives. "It is something that I have worked on when I first walked into the Legislature as a member of the House, so that we can prevent anything like this from happening... The first bill I introduced was H.B. 19-21," he said.

'COVID-19 forced IPI to terminate lease, affected operations'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As part of cost-cutting measures due to COVID-19's impact, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has been forced to notify its landlord at IPI's central office that it must terminate its lease effective last April 1, according to IPI in-house legal counsel Kelley Marie Butcher.

Butcher said the central office is the place where the discovery materials in connection with the lawsuit by seven former workers against IPI have been stored and were being processed.

She did not specify the location of IPI's central office.

Butcher's declaration was filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI Monday last week, in support of IPI's opposition to seven former workers' motion for sanctions against IPI. She executed the declaration in San Diego, California last March 29.

The former workers who are suing IPI and its contractor and subcontractor have asked the federal court to sanction IPI for allegedly violating the court's order. The seven plaintiffs, through counsel Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, said IPI has violated the

court's initial order to produce all discovery materials by Jan. 13, 2020.

Halegua and Berline said IPI has now also violated the stipulation ordered by the court requiring it to produce all discovery materials by Feb. 24, 2020.

In her declaration, Butcher revealed that almost all of the IPI central office employees have either been laid off, moved to half-time work, moved to an on-call basis, or been moved to at-home work only. She said that, of the 10 IPI employees assigned to work with her on this discovery project, four have been laid off and five are now working part-time.

IPI hired Shawn Davis, formerly of the Law Offices of Matthew Smith, to assist Butcher as an independent contractor to assist with IPI's compliance with its discovery obligations for this case. Butcher said Davis now works on an on-call basis, but due to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place requirement, is not currently working.

Finally, Butcher said, this is only the beginning of the COVID-19 situation and it

is quite likely that working conditions at IPI, and the rest of the CNMI (and the USA and the world) will only get worse in the coming months.

Butcher said plaintiffs with their motion are pushing for the court to impose a deadline which IPI must produce all responsive discovery. "While

I recognize that IPI must produce all responsive non-privileged discovery records reasonably promptly, I also know the severe effects that the COVID-19 situation is having on IPI and other business operations, and IPI's ability to produce responsive discovery

on a predictable schedule," she said.

Butcher said the casino has been shut down and employees riffed or laid off.

Butcher said IPI is a company that is only a few years old, with virtually no experience with the significant issues involved with electronic discovery. Butcher said she herself has no prior experience with large-scale electronic discovery projects. She said there has never been a case litigated in the CNMI that involves anywhere near the scale, scope, and significant issues involved with the e-discovery aspects of this case.

The lawyer said three current IPI legal department employees and three IPI Informa-

tion Technology employees were assigned part-time under her direction. She said four additional IPI employees were assigned to the legal department. Butcher said these additional employees were specifically assigned on matters related to this case and IPI's discovery obligations.

Butcher said she and IPI identified and contracted with Litigation Edge, an e-discovery vendor with a primary office in Ohio with an Asian client servicing office with Chinese language capabilities in Singapore, to assist them with complying with IPI's e-discovery obligations for this case.

Butcher said she, however, realized that the significant

steps involved with gathering responsive discovery—this unique issue they faced regarding the manner in which data was stored, the high amount of employee turnover, that IPI was deprived of access to much of the responsive data and other materials because of the raids conducted by the U.S. government in November 2019, the sheer amount and varied types of data involved, and the many deadlines imposed by that order—were impossible for IPI to comply with.

She pointed out that while IPI has missed some discovery deadlines, it's doing so was not due to willfulness, bad faith, or the fault of IPI.

See IPI on Next Page

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Radha Krishna temple closed

The CNMI Radha Krishna temple will be closed on Saturday night due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent the gathering of people, in compliance with government orders and curfew. Pray for safety at your own home. (PR)

Guam Nat'l Guard postpones training

In order to meet current mission requirements and in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the Guam National Guard has postponed its upcoming unit training assembly, originally scheduled for April 4-5. Soldiers and airmen are advised to contact their unit orderly rooms or chain of command for more information. (PR)

CHC updates visiting rules

Effective immediately, the Commonwealth Health Center will allow an expectant mother to identify a birthing partner who can be present in the delivery room with her during labor. However, after the baby is born, the birthing partner will be allowed a moment of physical contact with their newborn and will need to exit the labor and delivery area immediately. (PR)

Notice of suspension of programs

The CNMI Energy Division Office is temporarily suspending all program services for the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program until further notice. The Division of Energy will announce additional information and updates on program services once office operations resume and return to normal. (PR)

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GOVT**From Page 1**

other than those in federally funded positions or expressly exempted by the governor, and the furlough of some Civil Service employees for a one-year period, to bring the overall governments personnel costs down by 50%.

"This is a very, very difficult spot for our government to be in," press secretary Kevin Bautista said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*. "The CNMI government is working round-the-clock, through the CNMI Department of Labor, to get official confirmation on the eligibility of our government employees to be on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance."

Bautista added that the governor already signed an agreement to implement the program, and that the CNMI Department of Labor is working with U.S. Labor on the guidelines to identify those who would be eligible, and the benefits that they will receive while on furlough or after be-

ing terminated.

"This government is working very hard to take care of its employees that will be getting furloughed and terminated as a result of the lack of economic activity in the CNMI, and the lack of funding that is in our current budget projection," Bautista said.

Unprecedented circumstances

As with the rest of the world, the CNMI government is at a level that it has never seen before, Bautista said.

"Fiscal year 2020 started off really positive, with some strong collections in the first quarter of the fiscal year. We were looking to make 2020 a strong year for the Commonwealth, especially after recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu," he said.

Tourism was rebounding in the first month in the first quarter and things were looking positive for the CNMI to get back to a level pre-super typhoon Yutu. Then the COVID-19 outbreak started in late 2019, he said.

That pandemic is still happening until today, forcing the government to make difficult decisions, Bautista

said, from requesting that all flights in China be suspended, which led to a 40% decline in CNMI tourism, to the suspension of all flights to and from the CNMI this April.

"Our economy is at a standstill, at a very unprecedented level that we have never seen before in the history of the CNMI, in the history of this country, where the economy in states and territories have essentially stopped because social distancing is the only factor that we can control in combating this pandemic as we continue to wait for vaccines and medical treatment for COVID-19," he added.

With no economy and with the government reserves used to pay the upfront costs to expedite the CNMI's recovery after Super Typhoon Yutu, the government is working very hard to keep services up, he said.

According to Bautista, out of all 55 state and territorial governments, the CNMI is the only territorial government in the country that is making furloughs and cuts in the manner that the local government is doing, reducing the overall government personnel

costs by 50%.

"No other state or territorial government is doing that," Bautista said, "because we are an island economy, and this global pandemic has negatively impacted the overall world economy. We're having to survive off of the resources that we have in order to combat the public health threat of COVID-19," he added.

The furlough list

In a memo addressed to all department and activity heads yesterday, OPM director Isidro K. Seman directed all managers to review all staffing, including related staffing costs, and to determine positions that must be terminated or furloughed to meet the required reduction.

The list must be submitted to Torres by today, Wednesday, April 8, and the department heads' recommended retentions, terminations, and fur-

loughs will be reviewed.

After approval, each office must prepare the termination and furlough letters, to be signed by the department head, and the employee.

In his memo, Seman also informed all department and activity heads that the governor acknowledges that this will be a difficult task, and advised that the matter be addressed by position, and not by the individual occupying the position. "You, as the department or activity head, must determine which functions of your organization can be eliminated or combined during this crisis period and the minimum number of staff that must be retained to effect the retained functions in the most cost-efficient manner."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

VENTILATORS**From Page 1**

populous state would share some of its ventilators, a necessary tool to keep struggling patients breathing, with the national stockpile even as it hunts for more of its own supplies. Newsom suggested that New York may be one of the states to receive the ventilators, but he said the federal government was best poised to decide where they were needed most.

"We're very proud to be able to extend a hand of support with those 500 ventilators and send them back east," Newsom said during a news conference. But he said the state is "not naive" to its own needs.

"We need to continue to procure more ventilators," he said.

Vice President Mike Pence praised California as he announced where the ventilators would be sent during a briefing at the White House.

"The state of California has provided extraordinary and compassionate leadership for their citizens," Pence said Monday. "They are making progress. As the governor said the other day, they are not out of the woods yet but the numbers speak for themselves and the generosity of the people of California and the governor is gratefully received."

Newsom's decision follows Oregon and Washington committing to transfer ventilators to New York. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said the state will return more than 400 ventilators of the 500 it got from the

federal government. Inslee, a Democrat, said his statewide stay-at-home order and weeks of social distancing led to slower rates of infections and deaths in Washington, which saw the first serious coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, meanwhile, said 140 ventilators would be sent from her state to New York because Oregon doesn't need them right now.

California has been hunting for ventilators to boost its own supply for weeks. Officials requested 10,000 ventilators from the national stockpile, though it has received none. Los Angeles got 170 ventilators from the stockpile, though many were broken. The state has roughly 4,200 ventilators in addition to the hospitals' tally. California expects to hit its peak of cases in mid-May.

Hydrogen fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy has dedicated a portion of its production plants in California and Delaware to repairing old ventilators. As of Monday the San Jose-based company had repaired 1,000 ventilators, and a spokeswoman said it has the capacity to refurbish 2,000 per week.

Virgin Orbit, billionaire Richard Branson's company that makes rockets, has developed a prototype for a "bridge ventilator" designed to help patients breathe until they can be put on a traditional ventilator. The company is awaiting federal approval before it can begin mass producing the model, which was developed in partnership with researchers at the

University of California, Irvine.

While the federal government hasn't given California any ventilators from the national stockpile, it has sent other supplies. As of last week, California had received roughly 837,000 N-95 masks, 1.31 million gloves, nearly 2 million surgical masks, as well as face shields, surgical gowns, coveralls and 2,000 medical station beds, according to the White House.

California has recorded more than 15,000 cases of COVID-19 virus infections and at least 320 deaths, according to the latest data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Maryland has more than 4,000 cases; Nevada nearly 2,000; the District of Columbia nearly 1,100; and Delaware less than 1,000, according to the university.

"If we need them back in a few weeks, we'll get them back," Newsom said of the ventilators the state is sharing. If Californians continue aggressive social and physical distancing, it will give the state time to obtain all of the ventilators it needs, he said.

"We looked at our modeling, we looked at conditions on the ground, and we feel confident about our capacity to meet our needs, as we support the needs of others," he said. For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

til the hearing is over," he said.

Torres wrote retirees, surviving spouses, and minor children beneficiaries to say that the CNMI government will only be able to pay 75% of pensions, starting on April 15, 2020.

"I have agonized over this decision and have exhausted as much avenues as possible. Unfortunately, under the circumstances before us, these efforts were simply not enough," Torres wrote.

Torres blamed the injunction filed by PSS with the approval of BOE for their inability to make these

payments.

Last month, under the direction of Board of Education members Phillip Mendiola-Long, Marylou Ada, and Andrew Orsini, the Public School System filed a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief demanding 25% of general funds. This lawsuit singlehandedly restricted our government funds at a time when students are not in session, schools are not operated and while our community is deeply entrenched in our fight against the coronavirus disease," he said.

Butcher said IPI has already hired Sean Frink, who is experienced in defending institutional clients in civil litigation in the CNMI, and probably the only attorney in the CNMI with significant experience in large project e-discovery, and Catherine Cachero, to represent IPI in this matter starting last March 2.

She said Cachero and Frink have made significant progress since they came aboard in identifying the best path forward for IPI to meet its discovery obligations and in meeting those obligations.

Butcher said from Dec. 13, 2019,

confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, with another positive case on Monday that boosted the island's total to 113 confirmed positive cases.

According to *Pacific Daily News*, Maj. Antone Aguon, Guam's Department of Corrections administrative services division chief, announced late yesterday afternoon that a DOC recruit in Guam tested positive for COVID-19.

The recruit told prison officials that one of his family member tested positive for the virus last week Friday. According to a DOC officials statement, the employee was told not to report for duty and to go into self-quarantine. Three days later, the employee was tested and the results were positive for the virus.

Additionally, it was reported that Guam's acting DOC director, Joe Carbullido, instructed 38 recruits who could have had contact with the recruit who tested positive to also go on self-quarantine at home.

According to the Joint Information Center, as of 4:25pm, April 7, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 13 individuals for COVID-19 last April 6. One tested positive through DPHSS and 12 tested negative.

The 113 confirmed positive cases in Guam include two clinically diagnosed cases and nine confirmed by the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, California.

As of yesterday, Guam has a total of the 113 positive cases, two clinically diagnosed, 27 recoveries, and four deceased.

until March 2, 2020, she was the only attorney representing IPI in this case. Butcher said she was unexpectedly required to return to San Antonio, Texas last March 20 to further assist her mother, who has serious health complications. Because of COVID-19 travel restriction concerns, Butcher said she left Saipan early last March 17 to get to the mainland. She said she is currently in San Diego getting her son established after the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he is a cadet, sent most cadets home due to COVID-19 concerns.

Butcher was set to leave San Diego last March 30 for San Antonio, Texas, where she expects to remain with her mother there until at least April 20, 2020.

PSS**From Page 1**

that blames PSS for their inability to pay CNMI retirees and beneficiaries.

"Right now, even myself, we don't want to comment. We still have the court hearing for the injunction pending on June 23. It was supposed to be for April 14 but the judge moved the date to June 23. We're being advised not to say anything until the hearing because it might affect the case at this time. We don't want to comment un-

til the hearing is over," he said.

Torres wrote retirees, surviving spouses, and minor children beneficiaries to say that the CNMI government will only be able to pay 75% of pensions, starting on April 15, 2020.

"I have agonized over this decision and have exhausted as much avenues as possible. Unfortunately, under the circumstances before us, these efforts were simply not enough," Torres wrote.

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Butcher said from Dec. 13, 2019,

3 sued for alleged abandonment, non-payment of \$823K rent

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lawyer Janet Han King is suing two corporations and an investor for alleged abandonment and non-payment of \$823,098 in rent for her piece of land on Tinian.

King, through counsel James R. Stump, is suing Island Leisure Corp., Jeon Il Soo, and Alpha Victory Corp. for breach of contract and abandonment. She wants them held liable to pay her \$823,098 in unpaid rent, plus any additional damages, attorney's fees, and courts costs.

She also asked the Superior Court to have the defendants removed from the property so she could recover possession of the premises.

According to Stump in the complaint filed last Thursday, Island Leisure Corp. and Alpha Victory Corp. are both inactive, while the location of Soo, who is a resident of South

Korea, is unknown. Stump said that Island Leisure Corp. signed a 55-year lease for the use of the land until July 2052 on Sept. 11, 1997. The lease was signed by Jung King Hung Lee as president and authorized representative as lessee.

Stump said that on Sept. 15, 1999, the Island Treasure lease was amended, modifying the monthly rent due under the rent from \$3,500 per month effective Aug. 1, 1999, to be increased by 5% beginning Sept. 1, 2002, with an additional 5% increase every five years after. Stump said the total lease is \$3,005,628.

Under the amended lease, Stump said, the cure period for non-payment of rent was reduced from the original 30-day cure period to a 10-day cure period.

On Dec. 26, 2000, Island Leisure entered into an agree-



King

ment with Jeon Il Soo to assign all of the interests in the Island Leisure lease in return for exit extinguishment and cancellation of debt between assignor and assignee and associated mortgage on the property.

On Aug. 15, 2002, the Island Leisure lease was allegedly reassigned from Jeon Il Soo to Alpha Victory Corp.

Stump said King has no record of rent payment due under the lease, as amended, since August 2002 and asserts a claim of \$823,098 in unpaid rent due and owing under the terms of the lease.

In August 2002, lessee allegedly vacated the property and ceased paying any rent and associated expenses without notice to King. Since then, the property has been considered abandoned by the defendants, Stump said.

Last March 10, King sent

notices of lease default for nonpayment of rent by registered mail to the address provided by the defendants in the lease and assignment documents.

Stump said no address or point of contact was provided in the first and second assignment documents for Soo.

"As of April 1, 2020, there has been no response from de-

fendants on the notices of defaults," the lawyer said.

As a result of this breach, King allegedly suffered damages equal to unpaid rent under the lease.

COVID-19 bill includes millions for territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A total of \$50 million have been made directly available to the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated states in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act passed by Congress and signed by President Trump last March 27.

The \$55 million in funding provided under the CARES Act will address impacts of the coronavirus pandemic in the islands through the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program.

The island jurisdictions eligible for funding will include the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"Secretary Bernhardt and I are thankful for this funding from Congress and President Trump to help the island areas prepare, prevent, and respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "The islands are especially vulnerable with healthcare systems that could be overwhelmed quickly and limited healthcare workers. Additionally, some areas are still recovering from recent natural disasters which put them in already fragile economic states. We will continue to support the island areas and wish the island leadership all the best as they execute plans to protect and defend their communities."

Due to the global coronavi-

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Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act and Families First Coronavirus Response Act, will also provide substantial assistance to the insular areas through other federal departments. Hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance will be provided for financial relief to the insular governments, businesses, school systems, workers, and families, while also protecting the health of the communities. Some examples include set asides of up to \$154 million to the Department of Education for insular schools; \$200 million in nutrition assistance funding through the Department of Agriculture; and potentially \$272 million from the Department of Treasury Coronavirus Relief Fund. The Office of Insular Affairs is committed to working with our interagency and island partners to best deploy all available resources to combat the Coronavirus and its impacts on our territories and freely associated states.

For guidelines on how to apply for OIA TAP funding, visit the OIA website at <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. (PR)



TOGETHER BUT APART

Two people fishing with a rod and reel off a beach on Saipan maintain the 6-foot social distancing requirement. The CNMI government has rescinded a previous order that declared public beaches and pathways off limits to the public.

KRIZEL ALPIO


VEHICLES FOR BID
"AS IS"

**2015 Toyota Corolla,
4-door Sedan**

**2017 Mazda MAZDA6,
4-door Sedan**

Vehicles will be available for viewing on Monday, April 13, 2020, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Last day for bidding is on Monday, April 13, 2020, at 1:00pm. For more information, please call the Credit Department at 236-2700 extensions 3202, 3203, 3205 or 3206. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

Bank of Guam

LET US KEEP YOU CONNECTED

We are applying strict distancing measures to protect your health and safety, our Gualo Rai location is open from 8am-1pm from Monday-Saturday.

We are also available for payment and inquiries by the following:

**Through Customer Care at 488-CARE,
Email: customercare@docomopacific.com
or
Payment Dropbox located outside of our Gualo Rai store.**

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Better Together

Radio program models economic pain measurement

The Marianas Agupa Chamorro Radio Talk Show is pleased to release its scale/measurement of economic pain model, called "Mididan Puti" in the Chamorro language, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This scale/measurement of economic pain is the product of many fine local people on Saipan, Tinian and Rota who have been actively participating in the Chamorro talk show program since 2009 on Magic 100.3 FM from 9am to 11am on Saturdays.

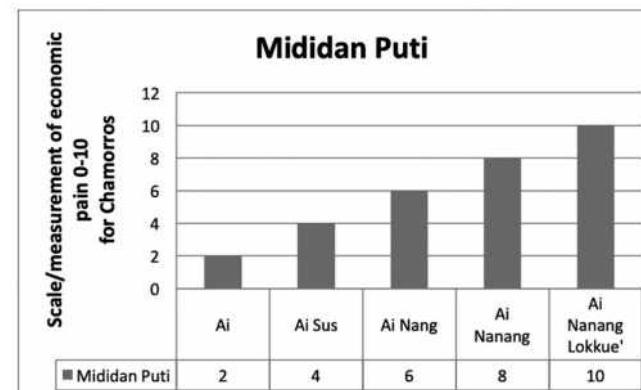
According to Glenn H. Manglona, the host of the Marianas Agupa Program, "the Mididan Puti" was the word coined by Thomas D. Mendiola, commonly known as "Guelu Fadang" who is our radio correspondent from Rota. During his weekly radio reports from Rota since 2009, he discussed issues of economic matters that directly affect the people on Rota, including not being able to buy the most essential things in life for survival like rice, milk and medicine because of air and ocean transportation delays and the cost of utilities and gasoline. The discussion centered on the way the people endured the hard living conditions for over 50 years. From not being able to find a job to being terminated from a job due to wrong political

affiliation, and the list goes on and on.

During on air and personal conversations with Guelu' Fadang, we found out that this can be something big and useful yet entertaining for our people if only we can come up with the elements that constitute a scale or measurement of the economic suffering our people are going through today. But without knowing where this will lead us, we decided to continue calling it the "Scale/Measurement of Economic Pain", or "Mididan Puti" in Chamorro.

In the latter part of 2010, the late Leon Taisacan contributed the word "Ai Nanang Lokkue" as he described the day he will be in such economic pain if he were to lose his pension under the NMI Retirement Fund if the Fund went belly up. Former senator David Cing reaffirmed Taisacan's description of the Retirement Fund's doomsday on air on *Marianas Agupa*.

During one of the *Marianas Agupa* programs in 2011, former Rota mayor Joseph Inos commented on Taisacan's assertion about "Ai Nanang Lokkue" in the scale/measurement of economic pain," said Manglona. "And so the



Nanang," respectively.

In the early part of 2012, as the host of the program, Glenn H. Manglona made a commitment to complete this scale of measurement. And so he began to review the audio recordings of the *Marianas Agupa* show on mp3 to see if he could connect the dots on the scale/measurement of economic pain and has found the missing links, "Ai" and "Ai Sus," to be placed as the lowest level on the scale in the measurement of economic pain.

"But this was not complete until we listened and integrated ideas presented on *Marianas Agupa* by many of our listening audience in order to properly label the scale/measurement of economic pain," said Manglona. "And so the

show continues until today and many of our fine local people who participated during the talk show program, including Mr. John Del Rosario Jr., have made a huge contribution to the elements associated in their life experiences and living hardships and in determining the scale/measurement of economic pain in Chamorro. We thank you all for sharing the information and description of your life experiences."

Factors

The preliminary model of scale/measurement of economic pain, called "Mididan Puti" in Chamorro, shows the factors in determining the measurement:

1. 2010 Census Population of Indigenous Chamorros and

Carolinians at 15,363.

2. 44% of families in the CNMI were below the US Poverty level in 2009.

3. 1314 Chamorro and Carolinian families were below the poverty level in 2009.

4. The mean family income in 2009: \$34,580.

5. CUC rates including water and power rates.

6. The Consumer price index in the CNMI.

7. The Gross Domestic Product of the CNMI.

Sample

The scale/measurement of economic pain below is for a person with a family of four living in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with a mean family income of \$34,580.

■ **Ai:** This scale at **level 2** indicates a person is living paycheck to paycheck with no savings and is barely making ends meet due to the high cost of housing, electricity, water, fuel, food, health insurance, telephone/cell phone/internet and car payments.

■ **Ai Sus:** **Level 4** indicates a person who missed making payment for his/her monthly telephone/cell phone bill and

got disconnected. Asking money from a family member or a relative.

■ **Ai Nang:** **Level 6** indicates a person who got his phone reconnected but this time, his/her electricity got disconnected. Cancelled his/her health insurance. Puts only \$10 gasoline in his/her car every two days.

■ **Ai Nanang:** **Level 8** indicates a person who got both his/her home/cell phone and electricity disconnected at the same time. Missed his/her car payments for more than a month. Lost his/her job in the government for excessive absenteeism. Seeking assistance from his/her elected precinct representatives and senators.

■ **Ai Nanang Lokkue':** **Level 10** indicates that a person got his phone, electricity and water disconnected. But this time, missed the car payments for two consecutive months. Bank letter for auto repossession is received. Lost his/her job. Retirement pension is reduced. His/her party lost the election but pretended to be part of the winning party by showing up at winning party's camp immediately after the election. (PR)

THINGS TO KNOW

As of April 7, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or chevy_alipio@saipantribune.com, or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

POLICIES

- Curfew from 7pm to 6am for everyone (adults and minors)
- Public beaches and pathways open from 6am to 6pm for individual use for exercise and shoreline subsistence fishing. Individuals must still practice social distancing.
- All boat ramps and docks are opened. Boaters must stop fishing activities and dock their vessels before the 7pm curfew.

QUARANTINE UPDATE

- The first group will be released from COVID-19 quarantine facility this week. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

BANK HOURS

- Bank of Hawaii: Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm (Saturdays closed)
- Bank of Guam Chalan Kanoa: Closed temporarily
- Bank of Guam Garapan: Monday to Friday - 9am-4pm; Saturday 9am-1pm
- First Hawaiian Bank Oleai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm; Saturday closed
- First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm; Saturday closed

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

- USPS Chalan Kanoa: Monday to Friday - 8:30am-4pm; Sat 9am-12pm

■ USPS San Vicente: Monday to Friday - 12pm-5:30pm; Sat 12pm-3pm

SUPERMARKETS

- For a list of the status of open and closed stores and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fyRm2XtrIPg7hQ_XN_YbesQYP6IxVwghB_xAXRz44xl/edit

RESTAURANTS

- For a list of the status of open and closed restaurants and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O8TVlgGVmvXAT5a_o0Eac3tftLTjL2AV4i-Pem0Zqdo/edit

OTHER BUSINESS:

- For a list of their status, go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15zg5hv22fhoKWoLQgasVb-bd1oeJrpD-5FjhdzgiBoW0/edit>

MEDICAL SERVICES

- For a list of the status of open and closed medical services and those with limited hours, go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OGsdjlau3mY8HABuqkiolTq0j9Zr7L48FMpYd8htU/edit>

HOTELS

- For a partial list of the status of open and closed hotels and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O9ftMfzIsI-zev7M6YbPS_xHiq4vNxrxUKlh0v42GkE/edit

RESOURCES

- Demystifying the CARES ACT: A primer for businesses. Plus Saipan

Chamber of Commerce updates. See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/De-mystifying-the-CARES-ACT-and-Local-Updates.html?sid=1129193858340&aid=0ExsNhZzzis>

■ Commonwealth Health Care Corp. services. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Frequently-asked-questions about direct assistance under CARES Act. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Face masks and do-it-yourself facial coverings. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Needing mental health tips? See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of boat ramps and docks. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of public beaches and pathways. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Avoid COVID-19 scams: Attorney General Edward Manibusan issues alert of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) scams. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Settlement Fund office hours

The Settlement Fund office has reduced its service hours to half day. We are still restricting access to the public and will continue to receive and respond to inquiries by phone, fax and email only from 8am to 1pm, Monday – Friday. Fund staff will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email. Contact Information for the Settlement Fund: tel: (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; email: info@nmif.com. (PR)

Source: Compiled by Saipan Tribune/ Chevy Alipio

PBS Guam launches free educational programming for smart phones, TVs

MANGILAO, Guam—The COVID-19 stay-home mandate points out the lack of quality educational television for our children. Children have YouTube and the internet where they watch other kids and gamers play video games, watch music videos, and cartoons. Because PBS Guam understands that kids consume media with many different platforms to keep themselves entertained, we believe high-quality education programming that you are sure to approve is made readily available to the residents of Guam.

PBS Guam is proud to announce the launch of our second channel: Guam's only truly free TV channel dedicated to educating our kids for 18 full hours a day. All you need to do to access this exciting new channel is to use your smart TV to tune in to PBS Kids 24/7 on digital channel 12.1. While the channel is named Guam PBS Kids 24/7, the channel will broadcast locally for free at 6am and sign off at midnight daily effective April 8, 2020.

We hope you enjoy the new service which will differ from PBS Guam KGTF Channel 12 or 12.2 on a Smart TV for free during daytime, and present popular PBS Kids programs such as Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum, Molly of Denali, and many others, throughout the evening. We felt it was important to bring this service to the kids of Guam as soon as possible and look to add PBS Kids 24/7 to our partnering cable providers very soon. (PR)

This channel is as much

Report highlights urgent need for investment in nursing

MANILA—A global shortage of nurses is highlighted in a report from the World Health Organization, released on World Health Day yesterday, April 7, 2020, at a time when nursing staff and other health professionals are working around the clock responding to coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19.

The WHO report, called “State of the World’s Nursing 2020,” projects that, without action, there will be a worldwide shortage of 4.6 million nurses by 2030 unless greater investment in nursing is made now.

For 2018, WHO estimates there was a total shortfall of 350 000 nurses in countries and areas of the Western Pacific, with the most acute shortages in low- and middle-

income countries. The CNMI belongs to this region.

“The case for investing in the nursing workforce has never been clearer,” said Dr. Takeshi Kasai, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific. “Right now, nurses are on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight, working tirelessly to save lives and protect others in their commu-

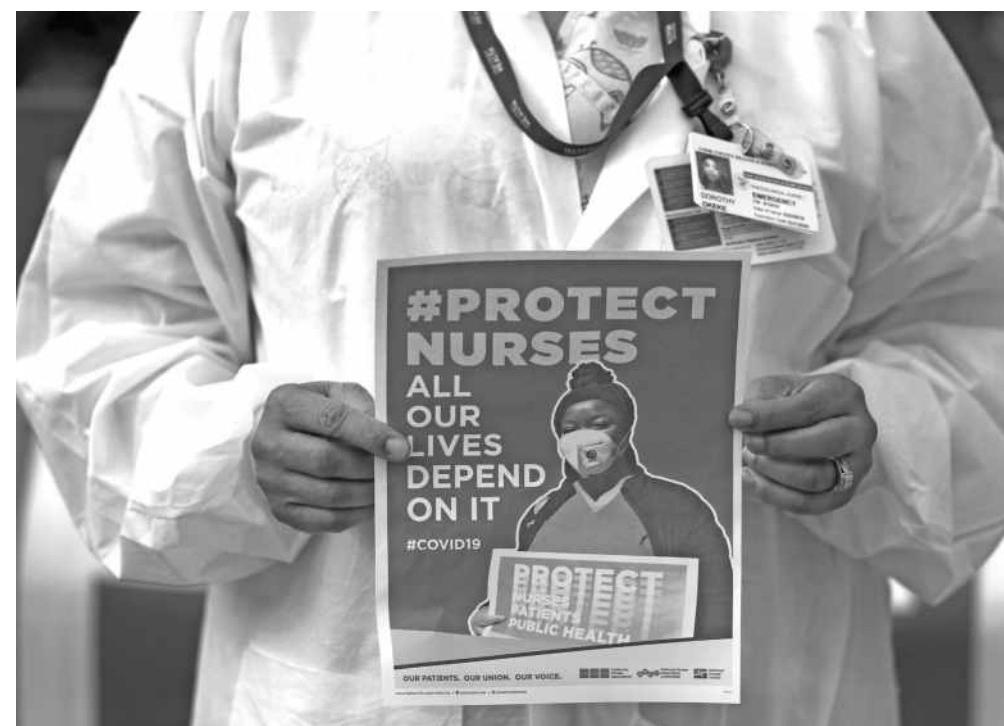
nity. Governments across the Western Pacific...must invest in strengthening their nursing workforce as an essential part of preparedness for health challenges such as emerging infectious diseases, but also the health challenges brought about by climate change, aging populations and a growing burden of noncommunicable diseases.”

The WHO report paints a

picture of an unevenly distributed nursing workforce across the Western Pacific region, composed largely of women aged under 35 years who have left their countries of origin to work in higher-income countries.

One in three nurses in this region works outside of the country where they were born or trained. The Western Pacific has the highest proportion of women nurses (95%) in the world, and half (50.7%) are under the age of 35. The region also has fewer nursing graduates per 100 000 population at 20.6 compared to the global average of 22.6.

According to the report, the number of nursing graduates around the world will need to increase by an average 8% per year. Governments will also need to address inequities in workforce distribution and pay, outdated education models, limited



A Provident Hospital of Cook County nurse holds a sign as she participates in an after-shift demonstration Monday, April 6, 2020, in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. AP

PSS to launch Enhancement Education on April 13

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will launch Enhancement Education and begin packet distributions starting April 13.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, the enhancement learning packets were put on hold because nearly all PSS staff were on administrative leave, but now the target release of these packets will be April 13.

Bonnie Pangelinan, PSS associate commissioner for Student and Support Services, also confirmed that Early Intervention and Early Head Start is ready to launch Enhancement Education technologically.

Supreme Court issues child support guidelines

On April 6, 2020, the CNMI Supreme Court issued an order adopting the Child Support Guidelines, providing uniformity in child support awards, maintenance of financial security, and a reduction in litigation and costs in child support disputes, as well as encourage equitable settlement between parents.

The guidelines were drafted through the collective effort of a committee composed of representatives of the Judiciary, the Office of the Attorney General, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., the Nutritional Assistance Program, and the Department of Commerce.

“I am thankful to Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, Attorney General Edward P. Manibusan and the Office of the Attorney General, the Family Court Division, and

April 9 to 10, then hard copy of packets will be distributed on April 15.

“We realize that there may be families who may not be able access e-packets or may not have the technology to download packets so there will be some hard copies available. On April 15-17, they will begin distributing the packets,” Pangelinan said.

According to her, all of the work in the Enhancement Education packets will be ungraded and for enrichment purposes.

Pangelinan added that PSS has received guidance from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. on the distribution of packets in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak in the CNMI.

“Early Intervention and Early Head Start are ready to begin on April 13. They have [standard operating procedures] in place and are going to be working with their families through technology and other means,” she said.

For the elementary level, physical packets will be distributed on April 13 following a three-day quarantine period.

“For elementary, their packets will be completed on April 9, they will be quarantined from the 10th to the 12th and they will begin distribution on the 13th,” she said.

For middle school, packets will be distributed to parents from April 16 to 24.

For the high school level, there will be an outreach to students and parents from

found on the Law Revision Commission’s website at www.cnmilaw.org. In addition to the guidelines, there are a series of worksheets, instructions, and supporting documents to assist those seeking or providing child support. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RFP20-CHCC/FACILITIES-003

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

FIRE RATED DOOR REPLACEMENT & NEW INSTALLATION

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP/TB TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

*MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON APRIL 14, 2020
@ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ THE CHCC FACILITY/MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

career pathways and weak regulation if they are to train and retain enough nurses to respond to current and future health needs. Investments in quality training and ensuring adequate pay and decent working conditions will improve health outcomes, promote gender equality and support economic growth.

For this year’s World Health Day, the “State of the World’s Nursing 2020” re-

port has been produced by WHO in partnership with the International Council of Nurses and the global Nursing Now campaign, as well as support from governments and other partners.

The report provides a global picture of the nursing workforce, using data and standardized indicators from 193 countries and areas, including 31 in the Western Pacific.

At the World Health Assembly in May 2019, ministers of health from across the globe designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. It marks 200 years since the birth of Florence Nightingale—the founder of modern nursing and recognizes the critical contribution these professions make to global health.

A similar report on the midwifery workforce will be launched in 2021. (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-14.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 69

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

In the pandemic, US needs to stand by allies in Afghanistan and around the world

The battle against the coronavirus is “our big war,” as President Donald Trump has said, but it’s not the only threat this country faces. And the battle against the virus is not only taking place inside of our borders. The big war also intersects with this nation’s longest war, the one in Afghanistan, among other conflicts. And here we need to be prudent in offering our leadership and driving an outcome befitting a great nation.

Last month, at least four Operation Resolute Support coalition members in Afghanistan tested positive for this virus. As a precaution, about 1,500 U.S. troops and civilian personnel are living in “screening facilities” in the country; others are in quarantine. So the virus has slowed the Trump administration’s promised drawdown of U.S. troops, and further complicated the peace agreement signed with the Taliban on Feb. 29.

Meanwhile, the ongoing power struggle between Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, with both men claiming victory in the last September’s election, has led the U.S. to cut \$1 billion in desperately needed aid to the Afghan government this year and to threaten to do the same in 2021 unless the two sides resolve their differences.

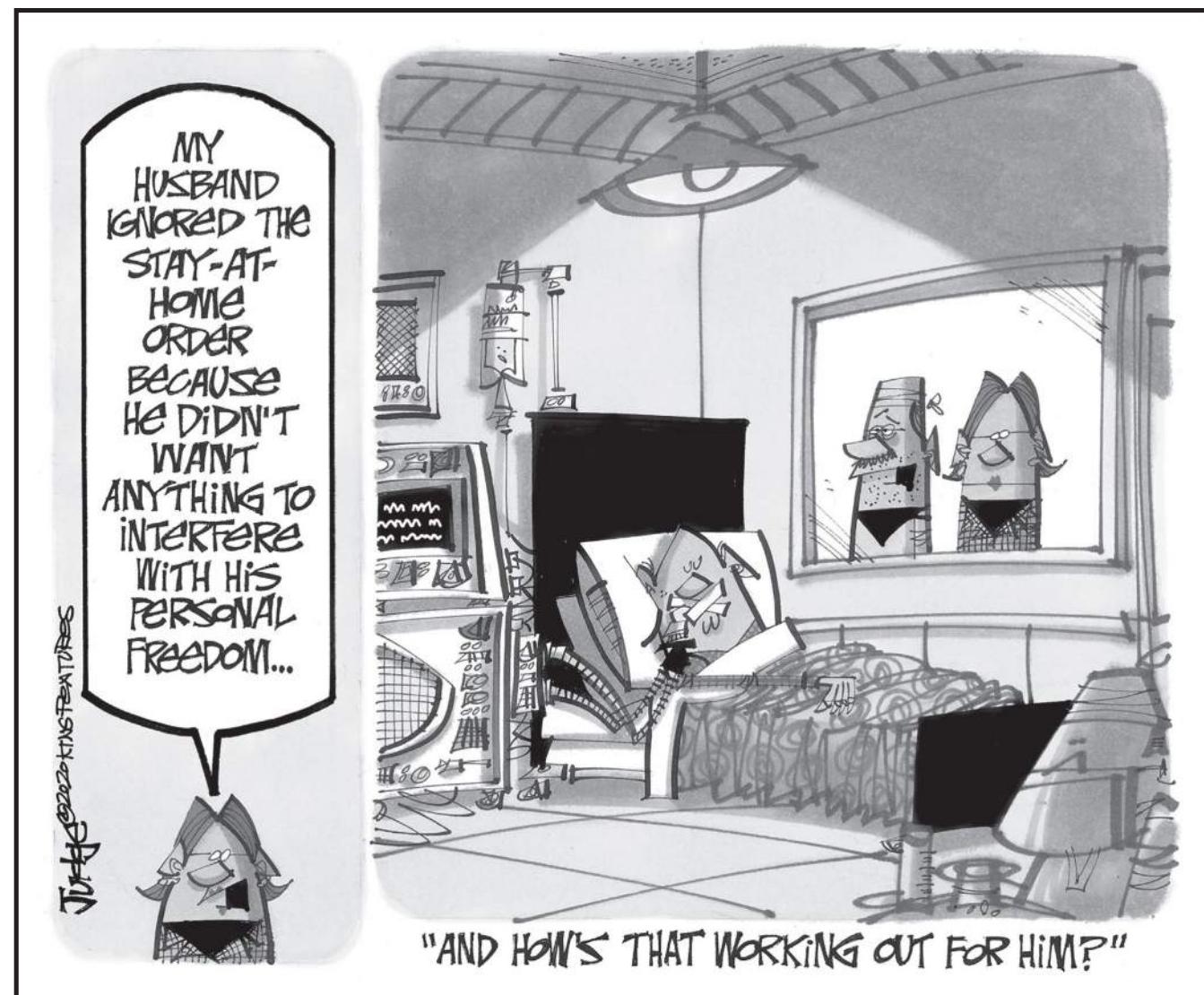
All of this has rightly led to questions about the role the U.S. should play in Afghanistan, and what form Operation Resolute Support should take as COVID-19 threatens civilians and U.S. troops there. The United Nations has called for a ceasefire so that aid can be distributed, but the Taliban continue to wage war. In March alone, more than 180 civilians were killed in the fighting.

Clearly, if we want the Afghan government to stand with us against extremists, now, a key moment of transition and while a pandemic unfolds, is not the time to cut aid. The country’s 38.9 million people, many of them living in poverty with limited access to modern health care, need help. As the Middle East Institute’s Marvin Weinbaum wrote recently, “Afghanistan and Pakistan, both with poor health management capacity, are likely to experience a rapid spread of COVID-19 and a high death rate.”

Long before the threat of COVID-19, the Obama administration determined that it was necessary to keep some 8,400 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, alongside a roughly equal number of NATO allies, to train and support Afghan security forces and carry out counterterrorism measures.

In his final State of the Union address in 2008, President George W. Bush said that thanks to the courage of our mil-

See US on Next Page



Spare the retirees

Dear Governor Torres: Your recent decision informing our retirees, surviving spouses, and minor children that 25% of their retirement pension will no longer be funded by the government is very alarming to say the least. This 25% pension reduction will impose a financial hardship on our *man'amko* who rely solely on their retirement checks to make a living and pay for their medical needs. We must look at other avenues to meet our constitutional mandate to PSS while making our *man'amko* whole with their full pension.

The Commonwealth has been struggling financially for a couple of years now from fiscal mismanagement. Your Dec. 31, 2018, letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature affirms this. You stated in that letter that the fiscal challenges actually began around 2017 and due to the decline in revenue collection and excess expenditures, the Commonwealth had a deficit of \$25,910,717 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2018, before Super Typhoon Yutu made landfall in the Commonwealth. This is not all. Just a year before in fiscal year 2017, we had an \$8 million deficit; and in fiscal year 2019, our deficit grew to a whopping total of \$98 million.

As such, we cannot put the blame on and point fingers at the members of the Public School System Board of Education for the 25% reduction in retirement pension payments. Legislative journal records will show that the 25% earmarking requirement for PSS had always been significantly underfunded during the budget process. In fact, several unconstitutional earmarking legislations, such as Public Law 20-34, were intentionally passed to make sure that PSS did not get its required 25% funding. We have always known of PSS’ 25% earmark, so we cannot now pretend that we were blindsided by the Commonwealth Supreme Court’s decision.

On June 12, 2019, I sent you a letter regarding government overspending and deficit accumulations. In my letter, I emphasized the need for us all, in working on the Fiscal Year Budget Plan, to work with reliable factual information such as the true cost of government operations. There is no doubt that our practice of omitting or knowingly under-budgeting known, unavoidable costs from the budget—including government utilities, medical referral services, Medicaid matching requirements, CHC indigent care costs, and PSS’ 25 % earmarking constitutional requirement—have been the main reason for our government’s overspending.

The independent auditor’s report by Deloitte on Aug. 13, 2019, shows that the Executive Branch alone exceeded its budgeted al-

By PAUL A. MANGLONA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Paul A. Manglona is a senator in the 21st CNMI Legislature and a former Senate president.



lotment by \$11 million in fiscal year 2018, the Medical Referral and Medicaid local expenses exceeded allotments by almost \$20 million, and government utilities by \$1.8 million. We cannot attribute our fiscal mismanagement on the retirees, surviving spouses, minor children, or PSS. We have no one to blame but ourselves, the leaders, for the maladministration of public funds.

Governor, there are several options Finance Secretary David Atalig can examine before moving forward with your decision to cut the retirees’ pension. Keeping in mind that the fiscal year is about halfway over so we need approximately \$11 million for the 25% of class members’ full benefits, I respectfully ask that the secretary consider the following:

- Negotiate with Imperial Pacific International for an advance payment of their Exclusive Casino Annual License Fee of \$15 million that is due in October 2020;
- Negotiate with IPI for the long overdue Community Benefit Fund mandatory contribution in the amount of \$37 million for the years 2018 and 2019;
- Use the Marianas Public Land Trust’s \$15 million loan reimbursement by FEMA;
- Reprogram unused fund balances from all the various appropriation measures funded by more than \$150 million in Casino Gross Revenue taxes;
- Reprogram unused fund balances from Public Law 20-59 funded by \$13 million from revenues generated from the licensing of amusement machines;
- Use a portion of the \$35 million federal assistance coming from the recently passed CARES Act, which the governor has sole discretion on its disbursement;
- Use portions of FEMA reimbursement for Typhoon Yutu and Mangkhut expenses in the amount of more than \$175 million;

See SPARE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Makat na pesti

Kase 158 na nacion man-dinanche ni pipinu' na sa-gun coronavirus 'nai megai man-matai. Gi hilu' este guaha inatuñgu' ina'ayuda para u tutuhun umaregla tatte ha'anen niha i los probes.

I chenut: hinatme mukus i sagan mañglu' gi gofes 'nai chine-ma' humaguñ regulatmiente i tautau estake dimalas. Tai amot na sagu ya u fan dimalas piot i man-amku'.

Trabiha taya' nu este na pesti guine ya puede tiha fatoigue hit pot makat yan pipinu'. Propiu lokue' na otden halagnus i gobietnu' 'nai ha prohibe bisita siha ginen China yan otru lugat gi oriya. Taya' kampu' an sinaulag i man-amku' nu este na sagu.

I man-sinapet nu este na pesti ayu i mandaibites yan mangai problema korason yan gofes. Sumen makat na sagu gi pumad-edese este siha na malakondision hinemu'.

Iya New Jersey mampus sinapet pot megai gi tautauña gi 'nos kuantus siuda man-kinikote nu este na sagu. Matutuhun man-manhatsa mas hospitat pot ti suffisiente kuattu gi presente na facilidat hinemu'. NJ 'nai ha tutuhungue' i pesti.

Inipus chadeg hachalapungue este na sagu. Gi 24 horas na tiem-pu mas ke 700 man-tinatme nu este na pesti giya NJ.

Tinaya'

I pineduñg ekonomian iya America guaha 47 miyon na tautau para u fan tai-che'chu'. Ensegidas si Presidente Trump yan kongressu machoneg un' prinipone para u inataha matompu' ekonomia pot dañosu gi bandan offisiu.

Ginen cho'chu' 'nai man-resisibe empleau suetu ni kumukubre nesesidad familia tat kumu guma', karera, magagu, neñkanu', gastun hinemu' yan otru siha nesesidad. Konsidera 'an tague offisiu kumu pisun familia. Sapat diariamente para umafana' gi inaligau moneda para mantension.

Malofan-yu' guine na kañada antes gi tinilaikan NTTU yan Interior. Makat na tiru i diariamente un' fasana' tinaya'. Mau-leg na guaha hanum sinaga para katsun estomagun mame entalu' faha' niyug yan lemai 'sino atulin kalamasa. Makat gi familia tirun ha'ilas.

SPARE

From Page 8

■ Use fund balances of Section 702 Covenant CIP funding, approximately \$11 million per year for medical supplies and equipment, to free up government operation monies to be used for retirees; and

■ Work with Region 9 EPA to speed up funding availability of \$56 million in federal money for sanitary landfill projects, saving CNMI millions in government operation expenses.

Governor, again, as I had always emphasized in all my previous letters to you, it is essential that we work with reliable factual information from the Department of Finance before making any drastic decisions. I believe the Legislature should have been brought into the discussions regarding this severe measure to reduce our retirees' pension by 25%. In any event, I hope you will reevaluate your decision by seriously and reasonably considering all the options above at a minimum before implementing the 25% reduction, which would ultimately require that the Department of Finance provide us all with accurate and up-to-date financial figures. With government transparency and accountability, our people will be behind us and be more willing to accept the tough austerity measures that we impose upon them because they trust that we are seriously confronting the magnitude of our fiscal dilemma.

Further, if after exhausting all efforts at finding additional resources for the retirees' pension and the Secretary of Finance still comes up short of the approximately \$11 million needed, I strongly recommend that there be a 3- or 4-tier pension rate reduction. For instance, the lowest tier may consist of retirees receiving less than \$20,000 per annum getting minimal to no cuts at all to their full benefits.

Governor, I am confident that if we all put all our heads together we can come to a reasonable and satisfactory solution. In addition, as we try to readjust our government's fiscal plan, our nation's leaders are doing everything they can to provide financial assistance and stimulus to keep our economy afloat. In fact, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan has indicated that the U.S. Congress is now working on CARES 2 Act. Likewise, we too should all come together and work to find ways to help our people during these uncertain times.

Pisu

Gi fina' konbetsasion yan laihu ñietu ilegña na ti presisu umey-ag finu' Chamoru pot esta gaige finu' Englisch. Dispues tai bali i liñguahen natibu ni pot dios.

Hu faisen haf' na par u dispressia i naturat giya guiya? Ha repite na tai bali na liñguahen fuera de usun konbetsasion. Hu adiñgane i laihu na huna' pasensiague' ya hu atan haf' gaige giya giya deste ha'ane 'nai humuyuñg-gue' gi tiyan nanaña.

Hu esplikaye i patgon na i finu' Chamoru i sahyan kutturan natibu guine siha na petlas. Sin este pues kase lokue' hagas mapuha i galaide' Chamoru ya maiñgu kontodu sustansiaña.

Kase tiha komprende haf' mina' likidugue' na finañagu. Haf' taimanu para un' ñeiga haf' gaige gi haga'mu?

Kuatdrante

Kumu amku' sessu hu pulan kinalamten mañeluhu diariamente. Gai atburutu na responsablidat gi katkuet manera.

Un' biahe hu aminasa un' che'lu pot motibu. Ilegña i amku' nu guahu, "Muñga ihu mana' kuatdrau mampus kuatdrantemu". Hu komprende haf' fino'ña na mantautau ha' i mañeluhu. Lau diberas gi halum estrakadan inaguaguat gi tropa haf' para un' chogue?

Hu estira talen pinasensya ya hu sottan ñaihon. Ayu 'nai hu aliligau 'an man-apañite pot che'chu' imbestidot. Lau otdinariu na burukan familia gi ha'ane. Magahet na kada uno konsu kustumbreña mina' guagua fina' inadisgustu. Dibera!

Fuetsau

Sais dias antes de bai komple sinku añus huna' appan i primet na satten hinegsa' gi foggun guafe. Era, ñalañgyu' lau malañgu si nanan mame ya ti siña kahulu'.

Hafana'gue-yu' manotne guafe, preparasion pugas estake hu pega gi hilu' foggun. Deste ayu na tiempu umeyagyu' preparasion totche deste estufau, katdu yan mana appan 'aggun haya.

Kontodu mañotse matiteg magagu hu eyag dispues. Unu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'We are better than that'

DIVISIVE: producing, or attempting to produce, disagreement, tension, or hostility between two or more groups

DEFLECT: to direct criticism, blame, or responsibility away from oneself towards others

SCAPEGOAT: to blame someone else or a group of people for the wrongdoings, mistakes, or faults of others, especially for reasons of expediency.

GASLIGHT: to manipulate someone or a group of people into questioning their own sanity

Dear friends: Much has been said about the governor's letter to retirees, issued Sunday night. How divisive it is. How it deflects his own responsibility. How it scapegoats the teachers, staff, and leadership of the Public School System and gaslights retirees (and really, our whole community).

I am thankful that it seems most people see right through the governor's letter, and are calling it BS.

But here's what the governor's letter fails to fully and honestly

US

From Page 8

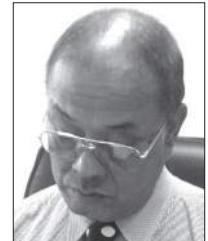
tary and civilian personnel, and our coalition partners, "a nation that was once a safe haven for al-Qaida is now a young democracy where boys and girls are going to school, new roads and hospitals are being built and people are looking to the future with new hope."

That hope has not been extinguished. But it will be if the U.S. leaves Afghanistan to the ravages of COVID-19 and a resurgent Taliban. And the Taliban does appear emboldened. (No, we don't believe any suggestion that the Taliban will stand down during the pandemic.)

As the U.S. commander for the Middle East and Afghanistan, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, recently told Congress that the Taliban "are continuing attacks" that "are not consistent" with a negotiated settlement. "The Taliban," he emphasized, "need to keep their part of the bargain."

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

ha' na che'chu' palao'an tihu tuñgu: mandeskatga. Poresu na finu'yu' gi neñkanu' yan trahe ni para bai usa. Debi magaguhu uma-enkola, atbidun yan maprensant tisu para bai hatme.

Magahet kinalamten un' popblen guma' pio familia ni tumuñgu' obligasion espirituat na libianu yan felis hinanau todum diariamente. Kase kuattru añus ni guahu tumucha lisayun familia antes de oran sena, estudiun yan deskansu.

Man-eyag i pumalu parehu obligasion gi karera mina' makomprende lina'la' espirituat. Un' fitme na kreansa ginen as nanan mame. Todu man-mañetbe gi atat kumu tanores. Sumen namagof 'nai hulili'e mona gi atat mañeluhu kumu setbiente.

Dispues 'nai sige luchan para i gimá' para preparasion amotsan ogá'an. Magahet na magradua-yu' gi high school sin muná lagu gi foggun elektrisia.

Gaige si Iku gi menan guafen hagas foggun munana appan hinegsa. Maseha popble na fina'pus ti mañotsuyu' ni unabes. Ayu 'nai huna' fitme presisu siha na ineyag satbasion.

Inadiñgan

Kumuentus si Queen Elizabeth pot chinatsaga ginen sagun coronavirus. Lau kau ha komprende linala' popble yan sapet gi halum tinaya'? Sedi ham señora umusune i mant ###

confront head on: the economic and fiscal disaster we are facing is real. Our government's finances are a mess. They were a mess before COVID-19, and they are definitely a big mess now. We have to own it. We have to be completely honest about it. And we have to make hard decisions.

The crisis we face is so much bigger than the governor. It's bigger than any one person's politics or ego. We have been through disasters before, and we know that to survive, to get to the other side of crisis and begin the work of rebuilding our lives, we have to pull together. We can't afford to be baited into attacking each other, or descending into false choices like taking care of our elderly versus educating our young.

We are better than that.

Sometimes, your elected leaders will fall short. Sometimes they will make mistakes. Sometimes they will forget who they serve and they will say or do straight-up stupid things that divide, or deflect, or scapegoat, or gaslight.

You will have to remind them: We are better than that. We are so much better than that. And we have a lot of work to do.

May God bless the people of the Northern Marianas.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Precinct 2)

CNMI Legislature, Capital Hill

Yet, what we see in Washington is a willingness to allow the Taliban to lay waste the country.

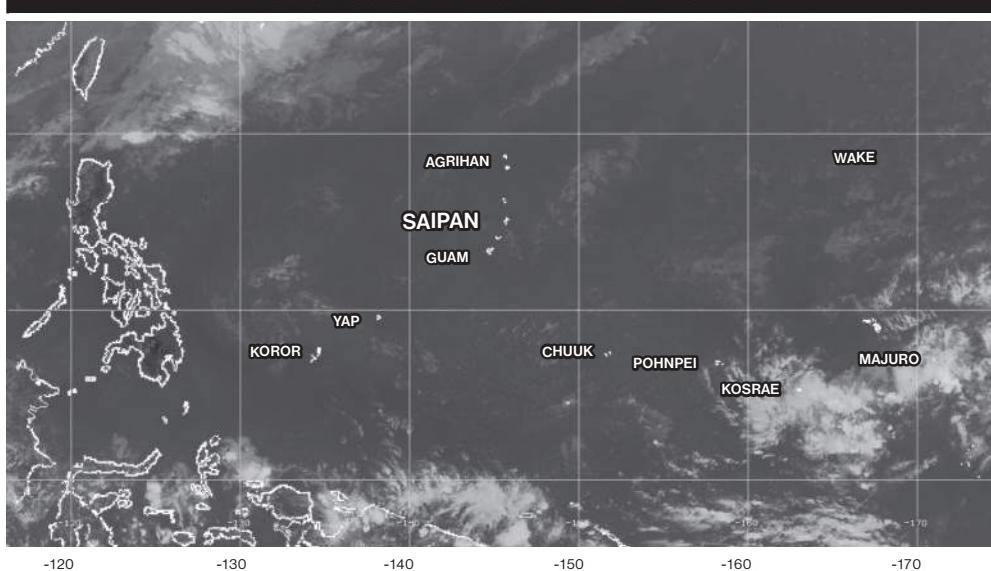
When asked by a reporter if the Taliban might "overrun" Kabul after U.S. forces withdraw, Trump recently responded, "It's not supposed to happen that way, but it possibly will." Earlier in that same exchange, he explained, "Eventually countries have to take care of themselves. ... This should have been done a long time ago. But you can only hold somebody's hand for so long."

That's a chilling message for our allies in war-torn Afghanistan and around the world. As the COVID-19 outbreak hits our allies, we need to reassure them that the U.S. remains a global leader and a moral light in these dark times. Even as we do all we can to win this fight at home and keep our military personnel safe, the United States needs to stand by its allies. People and countries tend to stand by you, if they see you standing shoulder to shoulder with them when it really matters.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88°	77°	87°	76°	87°
77°	87°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE				



PICTURE TIME: 8:30 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180°

Partly cloudy skies and moderate trade winds prevail this morning. Satellite and overnight ASCAT indicate a few trade-wind disturbances east of the Marianas...one near 150E and another near 158E. Combined seas are around 4 to 5 ft with higher seas in the typical areas exposed to trade swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
MARCH 27, 2020

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)
Monday - Friday
Customer Service & Customer Service
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free 1-855-729-2282

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475

Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 285-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553

Department of Public Works (DPW) Solid Waste Management Division Lower Base Transfer Station
OPEN ALL WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 322-3745

Marpí Landfill
OPEN ALL WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2761

Office of the Attorney General Civil and Criminal Divisions
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600

Department of Finance Division of Revenue & Taxation CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000

Division of Customs Services
OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Seaport: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Chalan Kanoa Post Office
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Office of the Public Defender
Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

COVID-19 HOTLINE TEL: (670) 285-1352 / 1542/1672/1845

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Sunny	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:10 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	-	6:57 AM	7:46 PM
Friday	-	7:45 AM	8:48 PM
Saturday	-	8:36 AM	9:50 PM
Sunday	-	9:29 AM	10:51 PM

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
MARCH 27, 2020

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

COVID-19 Health Tent
Patients arriving at CHCC with respiratory symptoms or fever will be screened outside of the main CHCC facility in a tent near the main hospital entrance on the upper level.
Operating Monday - Friday (7:00 AM - 6:00 PM)
Saturday - Sunday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

Mental Health Care Line
For mental health support and coping skills
Please call (670) 285-1856/1857
Monday - Sunday (7:30 AM - 7:00 PM)

Outpatient Clinics
Family Care Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM) and Saturday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM by appointment only)

Women's Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

Children's Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Patients can call ahead to refill prescriptions.
Have your prescription number ready.
Tel: (670) 236-8798

Immunization Clinic
For child vaccinations, please visit the CHCC Children's Clinic
For adult vaccinations, please visit CHCC Family's Care Clinic

Tuberculosis/Hansen's Prevention Program
Patients of these programs will be contacted by program staff for more information.

HIV/STD Prevention Program
Patients of these programs will be contacted by program staff for more information.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and Nicotine Cessation Programs are temporarily unavailable.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria has adjusted their hours to Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We are limiting the number of visitors in the cafeteria to 10 people at one time.

Dental Clinic

The CHCC Dental Clinic is currently open for dental emergencies only. Dental emergencies include: heavy bleeding from the mouth, tooth trauma, swelling or infection, and severe toothaches (pain prevents you from eating or sleeping and is does not respond to over the counter pain medication).

Visitors to CHCC

All visitors to the CHCC will be screened, and their temperature taken. Non-patients with a fever will not be allowed in the facility. No guests are allowed in the CHCC hospital. Patients who are admitted to the hospital will be limited to one caretaker at a time. Outpatient visits to the clinics are limited to the patient and a maximum of one other person. For example, if a child has an appointment in the Children's Clinic, only one parent or guardian may accompany them. Parents with multiple children should leave other children with a caretaker. Please plan accordingly.

Dialysis

Temporarily not allowing visitors and caregivers to sit with patients on dialysis during treatment. Patients on dialysis, please call the CHCC Dialysis Center ahead of time at (670) 236-8303/4 if you are experiencing a new cough, fever, shortness of breath, or any other symptoms that are unusual for you.

Funerals

If you plan to visit the CHCC chapel for a funeral, you will be asked to limit the number of visitors in the chapel at one time. This is done to increase the physical space between individuals so we can avoid the spread of illness and protect the safety of our health care facility. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

COVID-19 HOTLINE TEL: (670) 285-1352 / 1542/1672/1845

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Business

Tinian bakery donates to frontliners



Coffee & Bread baker Alexander Fronteras hands over the company's donation to the Department of Public Safety, left, and Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A bakery on Tinian has donated to the island's health care workers and first responders: the Tinian Health Center and the departments of Public Safety and Fire and Emergency Management Services.

Coffee & Bread donated

over \$100 worth of bakery products to the three agencies. Owner Edwin Sta. Therese, who works as an X-ray technician at THC, said they donated to THC last April 1, to DFEMS last April 2, and to DPS last April 3. He said the donation acknowledges these employees' work in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

While there are no COVID-19 cases on Tinian right now, Sta. Therese said he still appreciates the island's frontliners in their readiness to combat the pandemic if ever it reaches Tinian's shores.

"I am also a first responder and it is not easy to be a frontliner," he said.

Some of the items Coffee & Bread donated are some of the bakery's bestsellers, including hot pandesal, ensaymada, kalihim, and pudding.

Sta. Therese said Coffee & Bread also made the donation as a responsible member of the island's business community and as a way of giving back to residents who have been sup-

porting his business.

"It really feels nice to give something back to the community," said Sta. Therese, adding that he again plans to donate some of his bakery goodies to THC, DFEMS, and DPS this week.

Coffee & Bread opened on Tinian on April 29 last year and was a realization of a childhood

dream for Sta. Therese, who worked as a helper in a bakery when he was just 13 years old.

Coffee & Bread is located on the ground floor of the Sai Plaza Building, Broadway Road corner Canal Street. For more information and orders, call (670) 433-6666 or click on their Facebook page "Coffee and Bread."

Businesses wait for word, money after applying for SBA loans

NEW YORK (AP)—Small business owners hoping for quick loans from the government were in a holding pattern Monday — waiting on their bank to either take their application or, if it did, send them the money.

Business owners began submitting applications to banks, credit unions and other financial institutions late last week, or at least trying to. If successful, owners received notifications that their applications had been received, but for many, there was no further word by Monday afternoon.

Two of the nation's largest banks, J.P. Morgan Chase and Citibank, aren't yet set up to take applications. That leaves their small business customers to worry that the \$349 billion the government has budgeted for the relief loans will run out before they can apply.

Lori Ames emailed Chase on Friday, the first day applications were being accepted for what's called the Paycheck Protection Program, part of the government's \$2 trillion coronavirus rescue plan. She was

still waiting Monday for an opportunity to apply.

"In the meantime I've filed my application via (online loan marketplace) Lendio because at the rate Chase is going, by the time they accept applications the allocated money could be gone," says Ames, owner of The PR Freelancer, a publicity firm located in Babylon, New York.

The loans are being approved and guaranteed by the Small Business Administration. While the agency released loan application statistics throughout the day Friday, it did not do so Monday; when asked for the reason, the agency did not immediately respond.

Banking industry officials have said the slowdown in getting funds to customers has mostly been on the SBA's side, although they said the government was making progress. SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza tweeted Monday afternoon that Bitty & Beaus Coffee, a Wilmington, North Carolina-based coffee shop chain, had received loan money.

But many other owners were waiting.

Huntington Bank, the largest SBA lender by volume, said it got 16,000 applications for loans over the weekend. The bank did 35,000 applications for SBA loans in 2019, said bank CEO Steve Steinour.

"It's been a tsunami of applications," Steinour said.

While there's been a flood of applications, funds have yet to get to most businesses. Huntington expects to be able to fund the loans and disburse the proceeds to businesses Monday night or Tuesday morning.

Tanya Rutner Hartman applied over the phone with Huntington for a loan for her company, Gilded Social, a retailer of formal wear and bridesmaids' dresses in Columbus, Ohio. She was still waiting on a promised call from an underwriter Monday afternoon.

Hartman is keeping her two staffers on the payroll although her business is closed. She has enough cash for another 2 1/2 weeks, but is hoping to get the loan money much sooner.

After virus fades, service industries may be changed forever

WASHINGTON (AP)—For years, personal trainer Amanda Tikalsky didn't have to worry much about her job. The U.S. economy's record-breaking 11-year expansion offered security to service workers like her.

Then came the coronavirus, which closed the Milwaukee athletic club where she worked for 15 years. She scrambled to organize online exercise sessions to keep money coming in. About 25% of her clients made the jump with her.

"It's an adjustment for everybody," she said. "We are used to being face to face."

But even when the virus threat is gone, Tikalsky predicts that many customers will continue to exercise from home. The shutdown is also likely to change her own shopping habits. She has a new appreciation for the ease of buying groceries online.

The pandemic is almost sure to leave a mark on the way people work, shop and socialize, perhaps permanently shifting the way many service industries operate. Consumers will think harder about the health implications of squeezing into crowded res-

taurants and movie theaters. More businesses will accept the effectiveness of employees who work from home, and the move to online shopping will accelerate.

"We've never had a crisis where we couldn't socially gather with people," said John Gordon, founder of Pacific Management Consulting Group in San Diego, which advises restaurants.

Until March, service workers—from dishwashers to real estate agents—had been enjoying a record winning streak in the job market. U.S. service jobs had risen for a decade.

The sector appeared almost immune to blips in the economy. Not even low-wage competition overseas or automation seemed to threaten service jobs that require direct contact with customers.

Then the virus arrived. It upended the service economy, which accounts for 84% of U.S. private-sector employment. It wiped out 659,000 service jobs in March — 94% of the jobs that vanished last month as the U.S. economy plunged into recession.

It is sure to claim many

more. In an interview Monday on CNBC, former Fed Chair Janet Yellen predicted that unemployment rates could climb to Great Depression levels. But because the economy was in solid shape before the outbreak, she added, the return to normal employment could happen much faster than during the 2007-2009 Great Recession.

When the economy goes into a nosedive, manufacturers, not services providers, are usually hit first and hardest.

Not this time. The virus has been a gut punch to businesses that depend on social gatherings — restaurants, cinemas, theaters, hotels, airlines, gyms, shopping centers. More than 250,000 stores are now temporarily closed, accounting for nearly 60% of retail square footage, according to Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, a research firm.

The situation is similar in many other countries. In Wuhan, China, where the viral outbreak began, consumers are still reluctant to go out shopping as conditions slowly head back to normal.

Nation

White House: States need to better calibrate supply requests

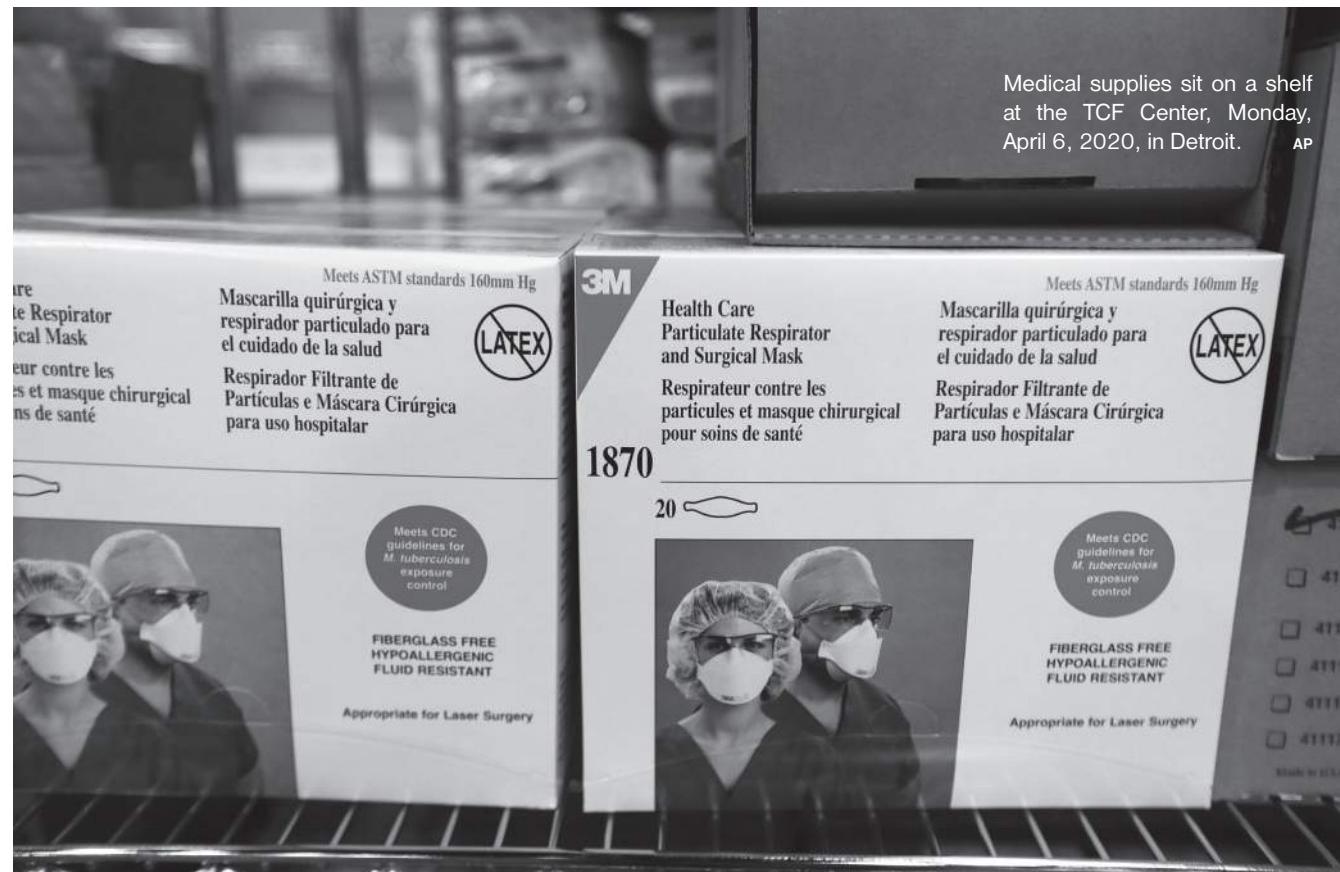
By GEOFF MULVIGHILL and ALAN SUDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The White House said Monday that some states are requesting far more medical supplies than they need to fight the coronavirus pandemic, pushing back against criticism that the distribution of vital equipment has been chaotic.

As the crisis has spread across the U.S., several governors have complained that they have not been receiving the protective gear and life-saving ventilators they have requested. On a call with governors Monday, Trump administration officials blamed miscalculations by the states for missteps in how supplies have been distributed.

"In some cases, people are requesting 10 times what they actually need," White House adviser Jared Kushner said, according to audio obtained by The Associated Press.

He said the problem isn't a lack of medical supplies in the country overall, but rather that they aren't all where they need to be. He urged governors to speak with hospitals to gather data on "what they're actually using" before requesting



Medical supplies sit on a shelf at the TCF Center, Monday, April 6, 2020, in Detroit. AP

equipment.

Oregon and Washington, for example, have sent virtually all the ventilators they received from the federal stockpile to New York — which is currently the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak.

It's not clear what criteria states are using to arrive at their requests, but data collected from the states by The Associated Press suggests the distribution system has been marked by extreme inconsistencies in those asks — and

in the subsequent deliveries. That raises questions about whether the equipment has been distributed where it was most needed as the virus spread across the U.S.

Colorado, for example, asked the federal government

for 4.5 million masks — nearly nine times as many as Pennsylvania, a state with more than twice the population and more than twice as many confirmed cases. Colorado received just over 500,000 of them — 188,000 more than Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile, Virginia requested 2.2 million respirators for health care workers, while neighboring North Carolina, with slightly more people and about the same number of confirmed cases, asked for just

Trump, Biden spoke by phone about coronavirus outbreak

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said he had a "really wonderful, warm conversation" with Joe Biden on Monday about the coronavirus outbreak.

"He gave me his point of view, and I fully understood that, and we just had a very friendly conversation," Trump said at his daily press briefing.

The president said he and Biden agreed not to share the details of their conversation, but confirmed an earlier statement from the Biden campaign that the Democrat offered "suggestions" on how to address the pandemic. Biden had previously said he'd like to share with Trump some lessons he learned from dealing with similar crises during the Obama administration.

But Trump added: "It doesn't mean that I agree with those suggestions."

Kate Bedingfield, Biden's deputy campaign manager, said in a statement that the two had a "good call" where Biden gave Trump some advice and

501,000. North Carolina has received less than half what it requested, but still far more than Virginia.

Oklahoma, which has relatively few cases so far, received more masks than it requested and slightly more than Louisiana, one of the hardest-hit states.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who has frequently sparred with President Donald Trump, objected to the idea that states may be asking for too much. He said the federal government had supplied 368,000 N95 masks and 693,000 gloves, but over the course of 10 days, he said the state goes through 1.5 million N95 masks and 25 million gloves.

"To anyone who wants a response to some of the blame-shifting coming out of the White House, all I have to say is, look at the numbers," Pritzker said.

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson said confusion from the White House has hindered the Federal Emergency Management Agency's ability to do its job.

"It's been weeks since the federal government has mobilized its effort to get much-needed supplies to the states, but it continues to be chaotic and states are still struggling to get supplies they request from the federal stockpile," the Mississippi Democrat, who is chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said in an emailed statement.

Meanwhile, Virginia requested 2.2 million respirators for health care workers, while neighboring North Carolina, with slightly more people and about the same number of confirmed cases, asked for just

Rate of deaths, illness among black residents alarms cities

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago's mayor pledged an aggressive public health campaign aimed at the city's black and brown communities Monday amid alarm that an overwhelming number of African American residents were among the people to die of COVID-19 in early data.

Black residents accounted for 72% of deaths from COVID-19 complications in the city and 52% of positive tests for the coronavirus, despite making up only 30% of the city's population, according to the city's public health agency.

Public health experts in Chicago said the trend was unsurprising to anyone familiar with decades-old barriers to health care in the geographically divided city; residents of the city's South and West sides historically have poorer access to health care, higher poverty rates and jobs that require them to keep showing up while others are able to work from home.

Similar conditions mark other large cities with large black populations that are considered hot spots for the coronavirus, including New York, Detroit, Milwaukee and New Orleans. Figures released Monday by Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services showed African Americans, who make up 14% of the state population, make up about

33% of cases statewide and 41% of deaths.

Still, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said the disparities in Chicago "take your breath away" and required an immediate response from the city, community activists and healthcare providers.

A new team of city and community representatives will focus on contacting residents who are older than 50 and those considered vulnerable to the virus because of other health conditions to share information about prevention and resources for those who do become ill.

The city's transit system will increase monitoring on its buses and add vehicles to lines still being heavily used, and city inspectors will visit grocery or corner stores to enforce social distancing limits there too, she said.

"We can't simply stand by and let this disease wreak havoc in our communities," Lightfoot said. "Lives are truly at stake."

The city's public health commissioner also ordered all healthcare providers in the city to collect data on COVID-19 patients' race and ethnicity, seeking to address existing gaps. The department's leader, Dr. Allison Arwady, said one-quarter of testing results sent to her agency so far have not included that critical information.

A national civil rights group on Monday said that's a problem across the country and demanded more transparency on race and ethnicity among the COVID-19 testing results, cases and patient outcomes reported by federal health authorities and state health agencies.

"Equal access to healthcare is a critical civil rights issue, and during this novel pandemic, the public deserves nothing less than full transparency from this administration and state public health officials," Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said in a statement.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker told reporters at his daily COVID-19 briefing that the state is responding to the disease's impact on minorities by "reopening hospitals that are in those communities" and by targeting "directly into the African American community" social media messages promoting social-distancing.

Pritzker was apparently referencing temporarily using three shuttered hospitals in suburban Chicago for bed space, a project he never before linked to any racial demographic and he did not elaborate on how is administration was targeting the community with virus-prevention messages.

Democratic members of

Congress had previously called on Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to ensure race and ethnic data is collected by health agencies across the country during the outbreak.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

Detroit, which is about 80% black, has recorded 5,032 confirmed cases with 196 people dead from complications due to the COVID-19 virus.

Coronavirus data specific to black residents was not available from the city, but Detroit and its surrounding suburbs account for about 80% of the state's confirmed cases.

"It's clear that what COVID-19 is doing is exacerbating the racial disparity in health in this country," said Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, who led the Detroit Medical Center before taking office.

White residents account for about 23% of the confirmed cases in Michigan, and 28% of the deaths, according to state health officials. The race of about 38% of the confirmed cases and 26% of the deaths in Michigan were not known.

"expressed his appreciation for the spirit of the American people in meeting the challenges facing the nation."

The conversation was the culmination of a dayslong effort by aides to get the two on the phone, after White House adviser Kellyanne Conway called on the former vice president to "offer some support" to Trump. Biden, the prospective Democratic presidential nominee, has in recent weeks released a series of proposals for responding to the pandemic and has criticized the Trump administration for acting too slowly to halt the virus' spread.

Biden said last week that he would "love" to speak to Trump and wanted to share with him his experiences from the Obama administration.

"We've been through this in a slightly different way in the past, and I hope they can learn some lessons from what we did right and maybe what we did wrong," Biden said during a virtual press briefing.

Asia

Japan to declare state of emergency for Tokyo, other areas



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe takes off mask as he speaks to reporters at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Monday, April 6, 2020.

AP

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that he will declare a state of emergency for Tokyo and six other prefectures as early as Tuesday to bolster measures to fight the coronavirus, but that there will be no hard lockdowns.

Abe also told reporters Monday that his government will launch a 108 trillion yen (\$1 trillion) stimulus package — Japan's largest ever and nearly twice as much as expected — to help counter the economic impact of the pandemic, including cash payouts to households in need and financial support to

protect businesses and jobs.

Abe said experts on a government-commissioned task force urged him to prepare to declare a state of emergency, with the COVID-19 outbreak rapidly expanding in major cities including Tokyo, and hospitals and medical staff overburdened with patients. He said the state of emergency will cover Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and four other hard-hit prefectures, and will be in effect for about a month.

Measures are expected to include a stay-at-home request for residents, but there will be no penalties for objectors. Public transportation, banks, groceries

and other essential services will continue operating.

Abe said the state of emergency is intended to further reinforce social distancing between people to slow the spread of the virus, while maintaining as much social and economic activity as possible.

"But we need to ask everyone to step up cooperation," he said.

The government had enacted a special law in March that paved the way for Abe to declare a state of emergency. The law, however, is a divisive one because it could limit civil rights.

Abe said he will hold a

news conference on Tuesday to further explain the state of emergency.

The economic package — which amounts to about 20% of the GDP of Japan, the world's third-largest economy — will pay out 300,000 yen (\$2,750) to each household with severe income loss due to the outbreak, and will include 26 trillion yen (\$238 billion) to address delays in taxes and social welfare payments, Abe said.

"It's to protect the people's health and their lives," he said.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said the city will start transfe-

ring patients with no symptoms or mild ones from hospitals to hotels and other accommo-

dations to make room for an influx of patients with severe symptoms.

From Iran's hot zone, Afghans flee home, spreading the virus

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Mahdi Noori, a young Afghan refugee in Iran, was left jobless when the factory where he'd worked cutting stone was shut down because of the coronavirus outbreak. He had no money, was afraid of contracting the virus and had no options. So he headed home.

He joined a large migration of some 200,000 Afghans and counting who have been flowing home across the border for weeks — from a country that is one of the world's biggest epicenters of the pandemic to an impoverished homeland that is woefully unprepared to deal with it.

At the border, Noori lined up with thousands of other returning refugees earlier this month, crowded together waiting to cross. "I saw women and children on the border, and I was thinking, What if they get infected now, here?" the 20-year-old told The Associated Press.

The massive influx of returnees, who are going back untested and unmonitored

by decades of war. So far, Afghan authorities have confirmed 273 cases of the new coronavirus, more than 210 of them in people who returned from Iran. Four deaths have been recorded.

Afghan Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz says the virus has already spread because of the returnees. "If the cases increase, then it will be out of control and we will need help," he said.

He and other Afghan officials expressed concern that Iran would push out the more than 1 million Afghans working illegally in the country. Iran has already barred entry from Afghanistan, preventing any who left from coming back. Iran has had more than 58,000 coronavirus cases and more than 3,600 deaths.

So far, the International Organization of Migration has recorded more than 198,000 Afghans returnees from Iran this year, more than 145,000 of them in March as the outbreak in Iran accelerated. At the height of the influx, 15,000 people a day were crossing the border, according to Repatriation and Returnees Minister Sayed Hussain Alimi Balkhi, though it has gone down slightly since.

Cardinal Pell welcomes court's dismissal of abuse conviction

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Cardinal George Pell welcomed Australia's highest court clearing him of child sex crimes Tuesday and said his trial had not been a referendum on the Catholic Church's handling of the clergy abuse crisis.

Pope Francis' former finance minister Pell had been the most senior Catholic found guilty of sexually abusing children and has spent 13 months in high-security prisons before seven High Court judges unanimously dismissed his convictions.

"My trial was not a referendum on the Catholic Church; nor a referendum on how Church authorities in Australia dealt with the crime of pedophilia in the Church," Pell said.

"The point was whether I had committed these awful

crimes, and I did not," he added.

A judge and lawyers had urged two juries in 2018 to try Pell on the evidence and not on his senior position in the church's flawed responses to clergy abuse in Australia.

The first Victoria state trial ended in a jury deadlock and the second unanimously convicted him on all charges.

The Survivors' Network of those Abused by Priests, a clergy victims' support group, said in a statement they were "dismayed and heartbroken" by the decision.

Pell had been serving a six-year sentence in Barwon Prison outside Melbourne on the convictions of sexually assaulting the two boys in December 1996 while he was archbishop of Australia's second-largest city.

Pell was also convicted of indecently assaulting one of the boys by painfully squeezing his genitals after a Mass in early 1997.

Pell was regarded as the Vatican's third-highest ranking official when he voluntarily returned to Melbourne in July 2017 determined to clear his name of dozens of decades-old child abuse allegations.

All the charges were dropped by prosecutors or dismissed by courts in preliminary hearings over the years except the cathedral allegations.

He did not testify at either trial or at the subsequent appeals.

But the juries saw his emphatic denials in a police interview that was video recorded in a Rome airport hotel conference room in October 2016.

World

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson moved to intensive care

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was moved to the intensive care unit of a London hospital after his coronavirus symptoms dramatically worsened Monday, just a day after he was admitted for what were said to be routine tests.

Johnson was admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital late Sunday, 10 days after he was diagnosed with COVID-19, the first major world leader to be confirmed to have the virus.

The 55-year-old Conservative was conscious and did not require ventilation, but he was moved into intensive care in case he needs it later, his office said in a statement.

Britain has no official post of deputy prime minister, but Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has been designated to take over should Johnson become incapacitated.

A grave-looking Raab said Johnson was "in safe hands" at the hospital, which is treating many virus patients.

"The government's business will continue," Raab said. He said Johnson had asked him "to deputize for him where needed in driving forward the government's plans to defeat coronavirus."

The deterioration of Johnson's health took many in Britain by surprise. Hours earlier, he had tweeted that he was in good spirits and thanked the National Health Service for taking care of him and others with the disease.

"On the advice of my doctor, I went into hospital for some routine tests as I'm still experiencing coronavirus symptoms," Johnson said in the tweet. He said he was keeping in touch with his team "as we work together to fight this virus and keep everyone safe."



In this Saturday, March 28, 2020 handout photo provided by Number 10 Downing Street, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson chairs the morning Covid-19 Meeting remotely after self isolating after testing positive for the coronavirus, at 10 Downing Street, London. AP

spoken to him since Saturday.

Johnson had been quarantined in his Downing Street residence since being diagnosed with COVID-19 on March 26. He continued to preside at daily meetings on the outbreak until Sunday. He released several video messages during his 10 days in isolation urging Britons to stay home and observe social distancing measures to help slow the spread of the virus.

News that Johnson had been transferred to intensive care drew an outpouring of support from around the world.

U.S. President Donald

Trump said "Americans are all praying for his recovery."

"He's been a really good friend," Trump said during a White House press briefing. "He's been really something very special—strong, resolute, doesn't quit, doesn't give up."

Trump said he asked two "leading companies" to contact

officials in London about therapeutics that could be of help. He did not identify the companies, but said "we have contacted all of Boris's doctors, and we'll see what's going to take place, but they are ready to go."

French President Emmanuel Macron said in a tweet that he was sending his support to

Johnson, his family and "the British people at this difficult time. I wish him well."

Former Prime Minister David Cameron who went to school with Johnson, said in a tweet that he was thinking of Johnson and his family and that he was "in great hands, and we all want you safe, well and back in @10DowningStreet."

The new leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, said on Twitter: "Terribly sad news. All the country's thoughts are with the Prime Minister and his family during this incredibly difficult time."

Johnson's fiancee, Carrie Symonds, who is pregnant, is herself recovering from coronavirus symptoms.

Johnson was admitted to the hospital as a message to the nation from Queen Elizabeth II was being broadcast Sunday evening. The 93-year-old monarch urged the public to show resolve and follow advice to stay inside.

Desperate hunt for food by Peru's poor amid virus quarantine

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Pushing a shopping cart with two children, César Alegre emerges from the large, deteriorated house near Peru's presidential palace that is shared by 45 families to search for food. Sometimes he begs in markets. Sometimes he sells candies.

It is a task that was hard at the best of times, but with a month-long quarantine that has forced 32 million Peruvians to stay home and closed restaurants and food kitchens, it has become much harder.

"We eat once or twice a day," said the 52-year-old, who says he has spent time in six different prisons for theft. Many among the 100 or so residents of the three-story house are ex-convicts who can't find work. The old building is opposite Lima's San Lazaro church, which was founded in 1650 as a hospital for refugees from a leprosy outbreak.

Alegre and his children, accompanied by a handful of neighbors, normally start out by walking about 2 miles (3 kilometers) to a market where they ask for food. The mer-

chants give them potatoes, meat bones and overripe fruit that nobody wants to buy.

But these days the merchants are refusing to give them as much food, if any at all, because their sales have fallen amid the pandemic and strict measures that have kept people at home and shuttered the restaurants that would buy their goods.

"They're vagrants," said a meat vendor of the inhabitants of Alegre's building, which has earned the nickname "Lurigancho," or "Little Lurigancho," after Peru's most populous prison, for the number of ex-convicts who reside there. The vendor said two weeks ago a young man from the building stole a bag of fish.

Besides begging in markets, Alegre also sells candy on buses. Nowadays, passengers wear face masks and don't like strangers coming near them.

"The virus has highlighted the selfishness that man carries inside," he said.

The pandemic has spotlighted the wide gap between rich and poor in Peru and

Virus pain easing in Spain, Italy; UK braces for bleak days

MADRID (AP)—A week ago, emergency rooms and intensive care wards in Spain and Italy were overflowing with woozy, coughing coronavirus patients and literally buzzing with breathing machines. So many died that Barcelona crematories have a waiting list of up to two years, forcing some people to bury loved ones temporarily in cemeteries with the expectation of exhuming them for cremation later on.

But now the two countries that have suffered more virus deaths than anywhere else in Europe are starting to see their crisis ease, while Britain, where the prime minister was hospitalized in intensive care Monday, seems headed in the opposite direction.

Between them, Italy and Spain saw nearly 30,000 deaths and 265,000 confirmed infections in the pandemic. They, and other European countries

that locked down weeks ago and ramped up testing, are now seeing the benefits.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte promised Italians Monday that they will soon "reap the fruit of these sacrifices" in personal liberties made to fight the coronavirus.

Conte declined during a press conference to say when the nationwide lockdown, now in its fifth week, would be lifted. The current measures expire April 13, but how and when Italy will enter a next phase of "co-existing" with the virus will depend on a technical panel of experts.

The country's business lobby is also eager to restart production, which also has been significantly blocked by the lockdown.

Britain's outbreak was headed in the opposite direction as the country reported more than 600 deaths Sunday, surpassing Italy's daily increase for the

second day in a row.

"I think that we are just a week away from the surge of this," the deputy chief executive of Britain's NHS Providers, Saffron Cordery, told Sky News.

In Spain, deaths and new infections dropped again on Monday. The health ministry reported 637 new fatalities, the lowest toll in 13 days, for a total of over 13,000 dead. New recorded infections were the lowest in two weeks.

Emergency rooms in the hard-hit Madrid region of 6.6 million were returning almost to normal a week after scenes of patients sleeping on floors and in chairs.

Patients awaiting treatment in Madrid-area ERs went down Monday to 390 cases, one-tenth of the arrivals last week, the regional government said. The number of people being treated for coronavirus in intensive care stabilized at about 1,500 for five straight days.

elsewhere in Latin America, and economists say a looming recession worse than any since World War II could push the continent's long-suffering poor into even more dire circumstances.

"The economic impact of what is happening is unprecedented," said Peru's economy minister, María Alva.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

As of Monday, Peru had 2,561 confirmed coronavirus cases, with 92 deaths. The government has steadily tightened bans and lockdowns to slow the spread of the virus. This past week it ordered that only men can leave the house on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while only women can go out on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The trips can only be to the market, pharmacy or bank.

Life & Style

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The group crying began after the final scene of the last episode of ABC's "Modern Family" was taped—with the notable exception of Ed O'Neill, who plays patriarch Jay Pritchett.

"I said, 'No tears?'" recalled his co-star, Jesse Tyler Ferguson. "He said, you know what? Things hit me in a really weird way. I'll be getting a facial in two weeks and, all of a sudden, I'll burst into tears.' And the only thing I took from that is, Ed gets facials?"

After 11 seasons, the "Modern Family" actors who've come to know each other well—maybe minus spa treatments—compare saying goodbye to leaving high school. They marvel at the friction-free years they worked together and make plans to stay in touch, relying for now on digital group chats during the pandemic-imposed isolation.

In recent interviews, the cast and creators Steve Levitan and Christopher Lloyd shared favorite series moments, souvenirs they claimed, and what's next for them. The hourlong finale airs at 9 p.m. EDT Wednesday, preceded at 8 p.m. by the retrospective special, "A Modern Farewell."

Great job, great memories

■ Whether high school seniors believe it or not, there's more and better relationships and experiences ahead of them, said Eric Stonestreet, who plays Cameron Tucker. But Stonestreet finds it hard to believe that's the case after graduating from "Modern Family": "We had a full-blown utopia, where we had a great group of people. We worked with professionals at the

'Modern Family'

cast shares memories as series finale nears



This combination photo shows award winning cast members of "Modern Family", from left, Ty Burrell with the Emmy for supporting actor in a comedy series at the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Aug. 25, 2014, Eric Stonestreet with his award for best supporting actor in a comedy series at the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 23, 2012 and Julie Bowen with her award for best supporting actress in a comedy series at the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 23, 2012.

top of their game. And it's going to be hard to recreate that."

■ Jesse Tyler Ferguson, who

plays Cam's partner and eventually husband Mitchell Pritchett, said it was the convergence

of reality and fiction that resounded for him. In a "Modern Family" scene, Mitch is seen

watching news footage that included his real-life spouse (actor-producer Justin Mikita)

Gaga raises \$35M for virus fight, curates all-star TV event

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga and advocacy organization Global Citizen have raised \$35 million to fight the coronavirus and will launch a TV special featuring Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder and Billie Eilish to combat the growing virus.

Gaga said on Monday that the money was raised in seven days and will benefit

The World Health Organization. The pop star and Global Citizen also announced "One World: Together At Home," a televised event aimed at fighting the coronavirus. It will air April 18 at 8 p.m. Eastern simultaneously on ABC, NBC, CBS, iHeartMedia and Bell Media networks.

"I would like to reiterate our deep gratitude to the med-

ical community. My heart is very achy and warm for those who are ER doctors as well as nurses who are sleeping in cars to make sure they don't infect their families or their patients. What you are doing is putting yourself in harm's way to help the world and we all salute you," Gaga said during a news conference Monday.

"What's very important is three things happening for all of us. That we celebrate and we highlight the singular kind global community that is arising right now. Two, we want to highlight the gravity of this historical, unprecedented cultural movement. And three, we want to celebrate and encourage the power of the human spirit," she said.

Adoptive mom writes rules for strangers with questions

DEAR ABBY: How would you suggest I deal with people who continually want to sabotage my diet? I worked very hard to drop more than 30 pounds. I also have digestive health issues that are no one's business.

An example: During the coffee break at a meeting at work, someone offered me lovely homemade baked goods. I said, "No, thank you." I then got a snide remark about being ungrateful for all the "effort that went into them" and was urged to "just try a little bit to be sociable."

Another time someone plunked a huge chunk of frosting-laden something in front of me. Or, a friend brings me a large quantity of candy or wine or strange "gourmet" stuff I can't eat, all of which wind up in the trash even after I have asked them to please don't.

When I visit my mother, she continues to pile stuff on my plate even after I repeatedly say, "No more, thank you." Then I get a lecture about wasting food. What do I need to be doing or saying differently?

SABOTAGED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR SABOTAGED: Take your easily offended coworkers aside and tell them, individually, that you cannot eat their tempting pastries because your doctor has told you you mustn't. I am sure it is the truth, and you should not feel guilty.

As to your mother, who really should know better, the next time she accuses you of wasting food, I don't think you would be out of line to tell her in plain English that she, not

you, is the one wasting food by piling more than you can comfortably eat on your plate.

DEAR ABBY: When I married my wife, "Celia," I was still in college, and she was a well-paid professional with an advanced degree. She told me that while she supported my goals, she expected me to be an equal partner and contribute my fair share. I worked, took out student loans, and we evenly divided our expenses and maintained separate bank accounts.

Flash-forward 30 years: Celia's finances are a disaster. While I saved, spent wisely and planned for retirement, she spent foolishly and is now mired in a mountain of debt with no savings at all. She ignored my commonsense financial advice over the years and chose to live beyond her means—new cars, long vacations, expensive jewelry, etc.

I am now comfortably retired, but Celia lives paycheck to paycheck and cannot afford even the smallest of unforeseen bills. I pay for all home repairs, vehicle maintenance, new appliances, etc.

Realistically, without financial help, Celia, now 60, will never be able to retire. Her "plan" is for me to die first, then collect my pension, savings, life insurance and Social Security. Whichever one of us goes first, she's set, in her mind.

Question: Am I ethically or morally obligated to help her financially? Sometimes I want to, other times I don't.

TORN IN THE WEST

DEAR TORN: You and Celia are long overdue for

demonstrating for legalized same-sex marriage in California. "It felt very like a circle moment. ... I couldn't believe that I got to be married in real life, and then later I got to get married again on TV in front of millions and millions of people. It felt very important."

■ "It was the combination of being critically acclaimed as well as popular that made for a heady mix," Lloyd said. "There's crazy milestones, like when Mitt Romney was running against (President Barack Obama) and they both stated it was their favorite TV show. That doesn't happen very often."

■ Ariel Winter (Alex Dunphy) says what she gained from the show includes her relationship with Nolan Gould, who played her sibling Luke. Winter calls Gould "one of my best friends. He really is the little brother that I never had and that I love so much."

Souvenirs, anyone?

■ Julie Bowen (Claire Dunphy) spent a fair amount of off-camera time in a hallway that mostly served as a waiting area for scenes shot elsewhere in the Dunphy house. Cast photos decorated the walls, along with paintings of birds that Bowen requested as a keepsake. The artwork had "so much to do with that set, and being there and feeling at home," she said.

■ Winter says she may be the only cast member that didn't request any set decorations. "I know it sounds weird, but for me, nothing stuck out as something I needed" as a memento, she said. Having spent half her life on the series, from age 11 to 22, "it's ingrained in my mind. ... I have the memories, and I'm good with that."

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

consulting a financial adviser who can help you get this problem under control. I suggest you find a credit counselor affiliated with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

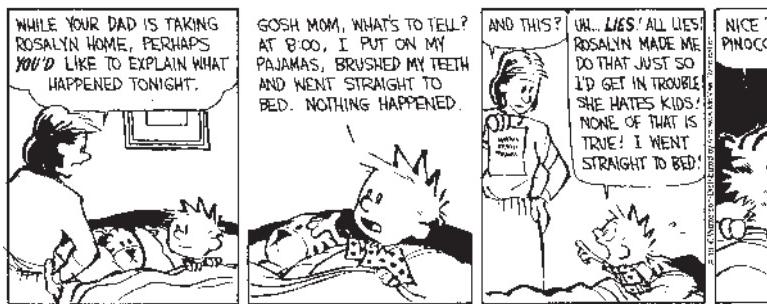
I am not going to weigh in on the subjects of ethics and morals, but I will say this: As Celia's husband, you are LEGALLY obligated. (If she is truly counting on your death to be her retirement plan, you may need to hire a food taster.)

TO MY READERS: Sundown marks the first night of the Jewish holiday of Passover. Happy Passover, everyone!

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

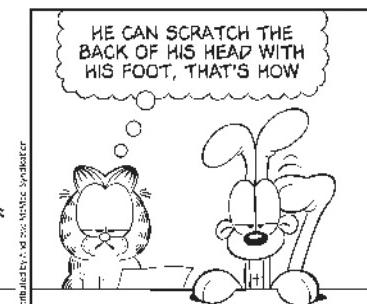
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Painter	2 Swindles	20 Cruise	54; John Schneider, 60.
1 Outlet letters	Magritte	3 "—Vu"	stop	
5 Pirate's chart	38 Cab	(Warwick hit)	22 Ranch	
8 Muscat's land	39 Caviar	4 Group	measure	
12 Yuletide tune	41 Facts and figures	of priests	23 Small hill	
13 Tramcar	43 Party snack	5 Miss Piggy's pronoun	25 CBS logo	
14 Hay unit	46 More skilled	6 Curved line	26 Speck	
15 "Prizzi's Honor" actress Huston	50 "Step —!"	7 High point	27 Famed Picasso painting	
17 Slightly open	51 St. Peter's, for one	8 44th president	29 Concept	
18 Despots	54 Formerly	9 Colorful tin-glazed pottery	31 Boston team, for short	
19 Geisha's garment	55 Mode	10 Arkin of "Argo"	32 Luau bowlful	
21 Site of Apra Harbor	56 Deserve	58 Shriek bark	34 Get ready, briefly	
24 Bando of baseball	57 Mad king of theater	59 Over-confident	38 Bistro furniture	
25 Jittery	58 Shriek bark	11 Sleuth Wolfe	40 Western flick	
28 Spring	59 Over-confident	16 Baton Rouge	42 — chi	
30 WWW access enabler	DOWN	1 Body sci. sch.	43 "Neato!"	
33 "How dare —!"	LAMA RIO GONE	44 Green Gables girl	44 Green Gables girl	
34 Stuffy sort	ORAL ANS USES	45 Online auction site	45 Online auction site	
35 Bill's partner	PAVED MESA	47 Actor Neeson	47 Actor Neeson	
36 Montreal summer	ABED SOMBREFO	48 Beige	48 Beige	
	IUG SIAIN VOW	49 Pealed	49 Pealed	
	STACCATO KITE	52 Boxing legend	52 Boxing legend	
	EARS WALES	53 Enervate	53 Enervate	

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Kitsch, 39; Patricia Arquette, 52; Robin Wright, 54; John Schneider, 60.

Happy Birthday: A steady pace forward will encourage success. Sticking to your plans and your budget will help alleviate setbacks and losses. Too much of anything will lead to criticism. Don't take the chance of putting a dent in a relationship that is meaningful to you. It's important to protect what you have, not to jeopardize what you've worked so hard to build. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 25, 32, 34, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't dawdle. Concentrate on getting things done. Refuse to let emotions take over or cause you to overreact to a situation that you have no control over. Choose to work on self-improvement instead of trying to change someone. ☀️☀️

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Refuse to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Concentrate on taking care of business directly linked to your advancement, not someone else's. Put your talents to the test, and take a position of leadership. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got some great ideas. Proceed with passion until you are happy with what you accomplish. Discipline and brute force will help you get the results you want. Don't trust anyone to take care of your responsibilities. ☀️☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show sensitivity when dealing with others. Someone you care about will be jealous or upset with what you are doing or saying if they feel

threatened or left out. Get approval before you start something that may not be popular. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a moment to reconstruct your next move. If something doesn't appear to be right, take a pass. Do what's necessary, and protect what you've worked so hard to achieve. Physical fitness, proper diet and good health should be your priorities. ☀️☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Remain intent on reaching your objective, regardless of what is going on around you. Refuse to let someone lead you astray. A change that is good for someone else may not be as good for you. Think twice before you proceed. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make a change that will improve the way you look or where and how you live. Refuse to let anyone put you down or hold you back. Don't get involved in someone's scheme. Hold on to your cash. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't leave anything to chance. Finish what you start, live up to your word and move forward alone if that's what it takes to get what you want. Refuse to let emotional situations undermine you. Do what's best for you. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick to what and who you know. Letting an outsider take part in your decisions will not bring the results you want. Firm up your plans with someone who has always been supportive and offered practical advice. Make a substantial commitment. ☀️☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Handle situations and people carefully. If you are too aggressive or expect too much, you will end up in a situation that sets you back. If you want to change, do the work and be prepared to suffer any fallout that occurs. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Ideas will flourish. A chance to try something new and exciting will come your way. Don't feel you have to follow in someone's footsteps if you have something you'd prefer to pursue. Follow your heart, and spend time with someone you love. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a unique path. A change you want to make will be met with opposition, but if you persevere, you will find a way to overcome any obstacle you face. Don't let someone from your past interfere in your personal affairs. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are conscientious, loving and sensitive. You are progressive and caring.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9			9						
9	2		3		7				
7		8		6					
7		4	3	5		2	9		
6	3		7		1	8			
2	5		6	1	4				
3	2								
4									

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	3	7	6	2	4	9	1	8
4	8	9	7	1	5	2	3	6
1	2	6	3	8	9	7	5	4
6	4	1	8	3	2	5	9	7
8	9	2	5	6	7	1	4	3
7	5	3	9	4	1	6	8	2
2	1	8	4	9	6	3	7	5
3	6	5	1	7	8	4	2	9
9	7	4	2	5	3	8	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THREE LONE RANGER

A	S	H	M	I	N	E	T	I	H	W	A	D	E	K
B	D	U	O	H	◎	R	S	E	M	A	N	E	C	W
A	U	V	R	◎	E	T	S	A	M	B	R	H	I	A
T	E	L	◎	E	V	I	S	I	O	U	T	C	H	O
H	R	◎	L	N	I	Z	B	U	T	C	H	T	O	O
L	H	I	M	E	T	V	O	P	K	R	I	L	N	M
E	S	R	B	R	T	U	A	N	N	O	L	A	S	
T	I	T	A	E	A	C	R	L	N	T	D	I	O	E
E	N	E	M	I	E	S	C	E	O	A	E	B	L	N
A	A	X	E	D	L	E	I	D	S	R	E	D	M	O
M	P	A	R	K	P	R	M	D	L	R	D	S	O	T
B	S</td													

NBA coaches prep for intriguing playoff matchups



NEW YORK (AP)—With NBA games indefinitely on hold there has been a lot of discussion about postseason possibilities—including by coaches around the league.

They're preparing for what a resumption of the season that was shut down March 11 could look like in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Toronto coach Nick Nurse said he's trying to prepare for every possibility that would allow the Raptors a chance to defend their title.

"We're ready for whatever is thrown at us," Nurse said recently during a conference call with reporters. "I don't think it really matters. What matters is that we attack the title in whatever format it's going to be presented in and we go for it."

No one knows what will be thrown at the NBA or the rest of the sports world. Looking at guidelines from the Center for Disease Control, if NBA games do resume this season the calendar will play a major factor in how the league proceeds.

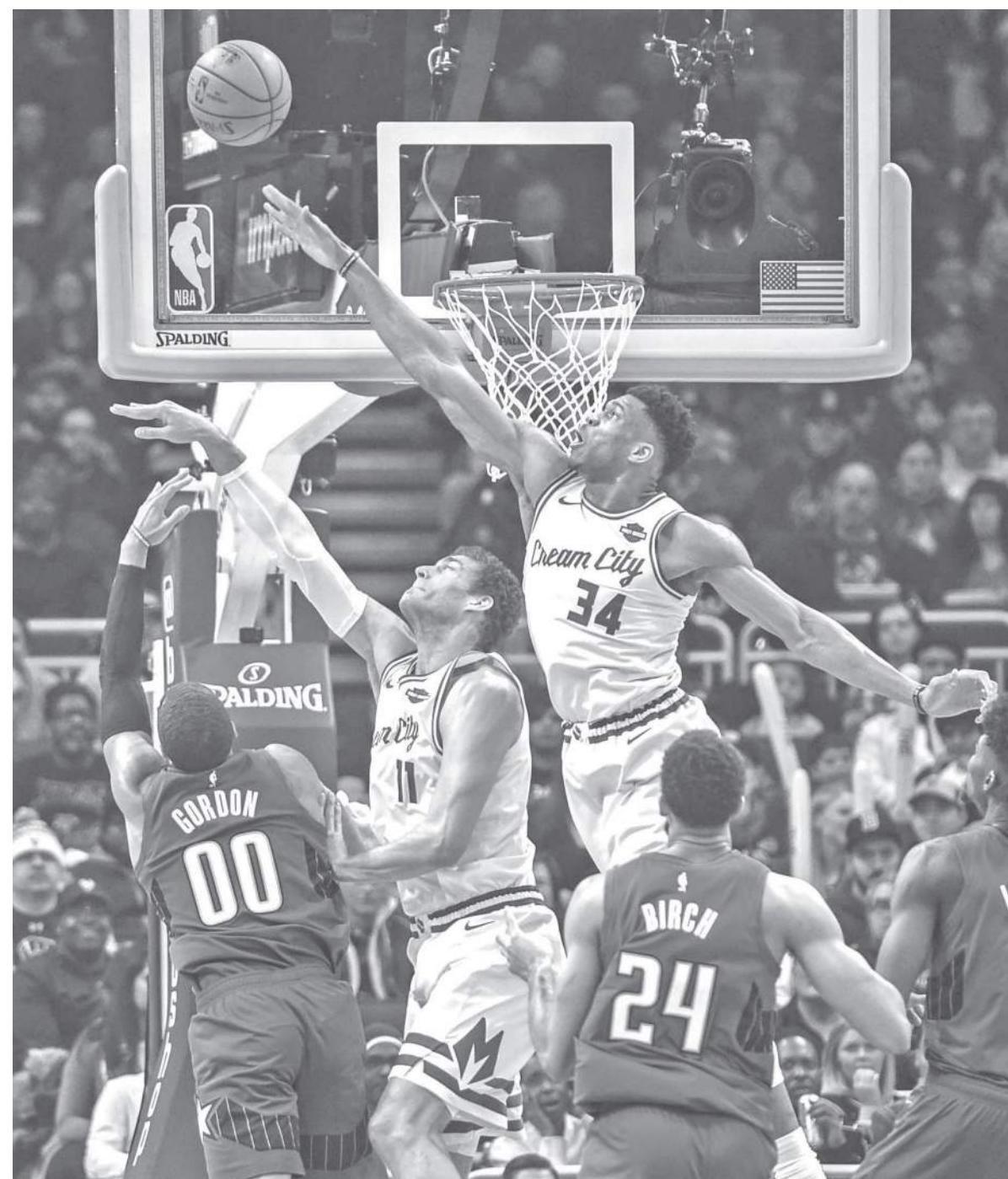
The ideas are many, from a shortened version of the remaining schedule played without fans to the very real possibility of jumping straight to the playoffs to ensure a season is completed before the end of summer.

Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said he has spent part of this hiatus studying the Orlando Magic and Brooklyn Nets—the Bucks' two most likely first-round playoff foes—as well as other Eastern Conference teams.

Nurse had already begun thinking postseason before the season was suspended.

"When we hit March 1, we've got a kind of playoff prepping plan thing that kicks in," the Raptors coach said. "We spread the teams around our staff members and they prepare a pretty detailed couple of hour video sessions."

"They would normally come into my office and start showing that to me one-on-one. It's a two-hour video that we go through probably in about three hours on certain teams in the



East and then a handful of them in the West as well.

"The coaches were started in on that already and they'll continue on that. The only difference is there's no real one-on-one time with me yet. They'll probably just have to send me their edit and then I'll just have to watch them and talk to them on the phone."

There would be several intriguing matchups if the NBA resumes the season with the start of the post-season. Nurse and Toronto would be the No. 2 seed in the East and would host No. 7 Brooklyn. Other matchups would be: No. 1 Milwaukee vs. No. 8 Orlando; No. 3 Boston vs No. 6 Philadelphia; No. 4 Miami vs No. 5 Indiana.

In the West: No. 1 LA Lakers vs No. 8 Memphis; No. 2 LA Clippers vs No. 7 Dallas, No. 3 Denver vs No. 6 Houston; No. 4 Utah vs No. 5 Oklahoma City.

As good as the matchups look on paper there could be some sloppy postseason basketball.

Celtics center Enes Kanter estimates it would take a minimum two

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is bracing for several more weeks of uncertainty about the remainder of this halted season, revealing Monday night that he does not expect the league will be able to decide anything until at least May.

Silver spoke on the NBA's Twitter account as part of the league's new NBATogether initiative, in a conversation hosted by Turner Sports' Ernie Johnson. Silver touched on many topics, including how the league is looking at numerous scenarios for a return, but in every case the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic makes it impossible right now to move too far forward.

"Essentially, what I've told my folks over the last week is that we just should just accept that, at least for the month of April, we won't be in a position to make any decisions,"

Silver says he does not expect any decisions before May

Silver said. "And I don't think that necessarily means on May 1 we will be."

The NBA was the first of the major U.S. pro leagues to shut down because of the COVID-19 threat, doing so after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert became the first player in the league to test positive for the virus. The league's regular season was to end April 15, and the playoffs were to begin April 18.

That isn't going to happen, and that has been known for some time. The NBA wants this season to resume, but simply cannot say with any certainty if it will or will not happen.

"We miss it badly," Silver said. "To all the families watching this, I know the NBA is a big part of their lives. We just want to assure everybody that while we're putting the

health and safety of everyone first, we're looking at every possibility to get our players back on the floor and to play NBA basketball again."

Among the decisions that have yet to be made, Silver said: whether the regular season will resume in some form or if the NBA would go immediately into the playoffs—assuming the league can salvage this season at all.

Also on the drawing board: if games would be played in NBA arenas or practice facilities, how televising games would work and if the league would take everybody to one site to finish the season. Cities have expressed interest in that option and have reached out to the NBA to say as much, Silver said.

"We're in listening mode

right now," he said.

The news likely wasn't unexpected, but it still hit All-Star center Bam Adebayo of the Miami Heat hard when told that no decision on the fate of the season is expected anytime soon.

"It's a whole spectrum of the unknown," Adebayo told The Associated Press after Silver spoke. "But at the end of the day, it's about safety, it's about our families and it's bigger than us. It's a global thing and we've all got to take it even more seriously."

Pre-draft process

The NBA has told teams that they may not conduct or attend any workouts with draft-eligible players during the league's coronavirus hiatus, a major change from typical

procedures.

Teams also are being prohibited from watching, requesting, or sharing any video (live or recorded) of a draft-eligible player or prospective early entry player taking part in a workout during the league's shutdown. The NBA told teams of the rule changes Monday in a memo, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Teams will be allowed to conduct interviews by phone or video, though they will be capped at a total of four hours with any draft prospect. They can also send questionnaires to players in advance of any interviews.

"Given the unique challenges associated with the current coronavirus situation, it is apparent that teams will not have

AP In this Feb. 8, 2020 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) and center Brook Lopez attempt to block the shot of Orlando Magic forward Aaron Gordon during the first half of an NBA game in Orlando, Fla.

to three weeks for players to get their bodies in game shape. Part of the reason, he said, is the sheer time players have had away from the court.

Kanter believes a second training camp-like period would probably be needed.

"You can't just say 'OK, we're going to play the games a week later.' Some players are doing some things. Some players are in their apartments not doing anything," Kanter said during a conference call. "We need to make sure everybody is doing their stuff and is in good shape to go out there and compete if we jump straight into playoffs."

Kanter said a training camp setting would also help players refocus. He said while he's staying in shape, he's also taken up other endeavors to avoid going stir crazy such as reading, watching documentaries and teaching himself to cook and play the piano.

It is clear time is not the NBA's friend.

Monday marked the 26th day of the shutdown, a stoppage that has already cost the league more than 100 games. And the CDC is recommending that all in-person events involving 10 or more people be extended through the end of April as the U.S. fights the spread of the pandemic. That extends beyond the 30-day shutdown the NBA put in place March 11.

Kanter said if a decision is made to jump straight to the postseason, he hopes the length of the series won't be affected.

"We're competitors, man. We want to go out there and push through and finish the season," he said. "It's crazy because we have a really good chance to go out there and get a championship. So, it's like for sure you want to go out there and compete."

the same scouting opportunities that are typically available in advance," the league told teams in the memo.

For now, the NBA draft is still scheduled for June 25. The league shut down on March 11 after Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz tested positive for COVID-19, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Monday night that he does not believe the league will be able to make any decision on the future of the season until sometime in May at the earliest.

The workout ban applies to ones that would have been hosted by either teams, agents or other representatives. The NBA said that decision was made consistent with government guidelines and advice from health experts regarding how to promote individual and public health while minimizing the spread of the coronavirus.

MLB, union discuss playing all games in Arizona

NEW YORK (AP)—Putting all 30 teams in the Phoenix area and playing in empty ballparks was among the ideas discussed Monday by Major League Baseball and the players' association.

The sides held a telephone call to talk about paths forward for a season delayed by the new coronavirus pandemic, people familiar with the discussion told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because no details were announced.

Ideas are still in the early stage, and the Arizona option would have many obstacles to overcome, the people said.

Half of the MLB clubs hold spring training in Arizona, the other half in Florida.

Arizona's advantage is 10 spring training ballparks plus the Arizona Diamondbacks' Chase Field all within about 50 miles. Florida's spring training ballparks are spread by as much as 220 miles.

"It allows for immediacy of a schedule, where you might be able to begin it and televise it, provide Major League Baseball to America," said Scott Boras, baseball's most prominent agent. "I think players are willing to do what's necessary because I think they understand the importance of baseball for their own livelihoods and for the interest of our country and providing a necessary product that gives all the people that are isolated enjoyment."

"It gives them a sense of a return to some normalcy," Boras added. "You talk to a psychologist about it and they say it's it's really good for a culture to have to have sport and to have a focus like that, where for a few hours a day they can



Traffic is extremely light in front of Chase Field, Thursday, March 26, 2020, in Phoenix. The Arizona Diamondbacks would have hosted the Atlanta Braves in their season-opening baseball game, but the start of the MLB regular season is indefinitely on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic. AP

take their minds off the difficult reality of the virus."

Baseball's season had been set to start March 26 but spring training was halted on March 12. After the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended restricting events of more than 50 people for eight weeks, MLB said it would not open until mid-May at the earliest.

Texas Rangers President of Baseball Operations Jon Daniels said MLB is examining different options and he didn't want to speculate.

"But, obviously, we'd all love to find a way to play, provided

we could do safely, and that would be the priority," he said.

The players' association would want to survey its members to determine whether they would support such a plan, one of the people said.

"You're going to be largely separated from your families and you're going to have to function in a very contained way. It's not it's not a normal life, this idea," Boras said. "You're going to have an identified group of people. You're going to have a constantly tested group of people. And you're going to have a very limited access of those people

to the outside world so that you can assure a very uncontaminated league, if you will, to produce a product that is inspirational to our country."

Chase Field, with artificial turf and a retractable roof, could be the site of daily tripleheaders, Boras said.

MLB and the union reached a deal March 26 to advance \$170 million in salary to players for the first 60 days of the season. As part of the deal, players would get only prorated portions of their salaries if the regular season is cut from its usual 162 games and would receive no additional salary if

the season is scrapped.

Both sides have agreed to attempt to play as full a season as is possible, and this plan would enable to season to start while waiting for health and government officials determine whether it is safe to resume play in regular-season ballparks, with the travel that would entail.

Meanwhile, the A's aren't known for handing out large contracts and could have some tough free-agency decisions to make on Marcus Semien, Matt Chapman and Matt Olson in the coming years.

But the A's are expected to

make a splash on the international market. While MLB's season continues to be on hiatus with the coronavirus pandemic, the signing period still is scheduled to open on July 2 but the league does have the ability to delay the start date until Jan. 15, 2021.

It was reported Monday that the A's are likely to hand out the largest J2 international contract this year. Oakland is expected to sign outfielder Pedro Pineda out of the Dominican Republic for more than \$4 million.

Pineda, 16, already is listed at 6-feet tall and 180 pounds.

SWITZERLAND (AP)—FIFA is providing global coordination with competition organizers to provide flexibility to ensure coronavirus-derailed seasons can be completed with as little financial turmoil as possible.

While FIFA does not set the dates of domestic or continental club competitions, the governing does does oversee the implementation of two transfer windows during the year in each country.

A FIFA taskforce has been exploring the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and has backed flexibility in shifting the transfer windows, extending player contracts to allow seasons to be completed, and encouraging salary reduction agreements.

A final decision will be made by the FIFA Bureau, which includes the presidents of the six regional confederations.

UEFA has already determined that competitions in Eu-

FIFA flexible to complete seasons, encourages pay-cut deals

rope can run beyond the June 30 cut-off for player contracts.

Cost-cutting is underway at many clubs and federations to deal with the financial impact of games not being played.

National team matches that were scheduled in June and July have already been postponed, including the European Championship and Copa America.

England coach Gareth Southgate agreed to a 30% cut on his reported annual salary of 3 million pounds (\$3.6 million) during the coronavirus outbreak. The English Football Association also announced on Monday that the pay of senior management will be reduced by 15% and those staff earning 50,000 pounds (\$60,000) or more per year will take a temporary pay reduction of 7.5%.

Serie A clubs want play-

ers to accept a pay cut equal to four months of salary if the season does not resume, reduced to two months if the current campaign is completed. But the Italian players' association has not yet signed off on the deal.

The players' union in England is in a standoff with the Premier League clubs over a push to implement 30% reductions.

The FIFA taskforce is hoping clubs and players work together to help to protect jobs, given the significant loss of income being experienced with the leading competitions suspended since last month.

Players in some European countries are eligible for state-backed unemployment insurance programs to cover some of their wages.



Alleged bribes in 2022 FIFA World Cup vote

In New York, prosecutors revealed new details of alleged bribes paid to FIFA executive committee members to gain their votes for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup and charged a pair of former 21st Century Fox executives with making illegal payments to win broadcast rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

An indictment unsealed Monday in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn says Nicolás Leoz, then president of the South American governing body CONMEBOL, and former Brazil federation president Ricardo Teixeira received bribes to vote for Qatar at the 2010 FIFA executive committee meeting.

Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago, president of the North

and Central American and Caribbean governing body CONCACAF, received \$5 million in bribes, the indictment alleged. Guatemala federation president Rafael Salguero was promised a \$1 million bribe, according to the indictment.

Leoz, who died last August, avoided extradition, as have Warner and Teixeira. Salguero pleaded guilty in 2018 to two counts of wire fraud conspiracy and one count each of racketeering conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy.

Alejandro Burzaco, former head of the marketing company Torneos y Competencias, testified in 2017 that all three South Americans among the 22 FIFA executive committee voters took million-dollar bribes to support Qatar, which prevailed over the U.S. 14-8.

Former 21st Century Fox Inc. executives Hernan Lo-

pez and Carlos Martinez were charged Monday with making payments to officials of the CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing body, to obtain broadcast rights bidding information from a co-conspirator whose identify was not identified in the indictment.

ESPN had U.S. English-language television rights to the World Cup from 1994-2014, but Fox in 2011 gained the rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments. After the 2022 tournament in Qatar was shifted from summer to late autumn, a time when it is likely to get less attention in the U.S., FIFA awarded Fox rights for 2026 without competitive bidding.

Also charged in the indictment, handed up by a grand jury on March 18, are former Imagina Media Audiovisual CEO Gerard Romy and the Uruguayan sports marketing company Full Play Group SA.

8 picks for All-Decade Team include Brady, Watt



NEW ENGLAND—Von Miller had to catch his breath after finding out he got every vote for the 2010s All-Decade Team.

Miller, Tom Brady, J.J. Watt and Adrian Peterson are among eight unanimous selections to the 2010s NFL All-Decade Team announced Monday by the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"I never dreamed about making the All-Decade Team," Miller said. "You think about Super Bowls ... but this is such an honor that's so hard to get that you don't really even think about it. It's incredible to be here. It's incredible to achieve this honor."

Aaron Donald, Joe Thomas, Marshal Yanda and Justin Tucker also are on every ballot of the 48-member Hall of Fame selection committee. All

but tackle Thomas and guard Yanda are active.

The 55-member team is comprised only of players who made an AP All-Pro team, a Pro Bowl or a Pro Football Writers of America all-conference squad from 2010-19. Four of the unanimous players—Brady, Miller, Yanda and Tucker—won Super Bowls during the decade.

"Being elected unanimously is really, really cool," said Tucker, who has worked with the same long snapper and holder since breaking into the NFL in 2012. "There's kind of a lot going on in the world right now, so it's hard to be super excited about stuff that happens in the football world, but it is still an incredible honor."

"It's something that I wouldn't have had a chance at if it wasn't for all the great people around me. It starts with (long snapper) Morgan Cox and (holder) Sam Koch on the field and includes (kicking consultant) Randy Brown,



AP

(former special teams coach) Jerry Rosburg, (current special teams coach) Chris Horton, coach (John) Harbaugh. They provide an environment for us as a special teams unit to thrive."

Seattle has the most honorees with five: linebacker Bobby Wagner, safety Earl Thomas, cornerback Richard Sherman, running back Marshawn Lynch and coach Pete Carroll.

Brady is joined at quarterback by another NFL champion, Green Bay's Aaron Rod-

gers. Brady, of course, took three of his six Super Bowl victories during the decade with New England, going 141-42 overall, and recently left the Patriots as a free agent for Tampa Bay. Rodgers went 112-63-2 in the decade.

Peterson, the only non-quarterback to win MVP honors in the 10-season span, is accompanied by Lynch, Frank Gore and LeSean McCoy in the backfield. Darren Sproles is the flex player—and one of the punt returners.

Calvin Johnson, who becomes eligible for the Hall of

Fame next year, is joined by Julio Jones, Larry Fitzgerald and Antonio Brown at wideout. The tight ends are Rob Gronkowski and Travis Kelce.

Along with Thomas, the tackles are Jason Peters, Joe Staley and Tyron Smith. Yanda's fellow guards are Zack Martin, Logan Mankins and Jahri Evans. Alex Mack and Maurkice Pouncey are the centers.

Up front on defense with end Watt, a three-time Defensive Player of the Year, and tackle Donald are ends Calais Campbell, Cam Jordan and

Julius Peppers, and tackles Geno Atkins, Fletcher Cox and Ndamukong Suh.

Wagner's and Miller's mates at linebacker are recently retired Luke Kuechly, Khalil Mack, Chandler Jones, and Patrick Willis.

The three cornerbacks are Sherman, Darrelle Revis and Patrick Peterson. Safeties are Earl Thomas, Eric Weddle and Eric Berry. Selected as defensive backs, in recognition of slot cornerbacks and other versatile players in the secondary, are Chris Harris Jr., and Tyrann Mathieu.

In this Sept. 9, 2018 file photo, Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt (99) tries to pull down New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) during the second half of an NFL game.

"Honored to be named to the All-Decade team among this group of extraordinary men. I can't & won't speak for everyone on this list. But I know personally that each name on this team (& others who deserve to be) drove me to be better every single day!" Patrick Peterson tweeted.

Harris and former teammate Miller—Harris left the Broncos for the Chargers this off-season—both entered the NFL in 2011. Now they are together on the All-Decade squad.

"It's an honor and a great feeling to make the All-Decade Team with Von," said Harris, who was an undrafted free agent in 2011. "He's definitely worked extremely hard to get it. We came into the league together and he's one of those staple guys who have been great from the moment they stepped onto the football field and are still amazing. To get this honor with Von is a great feeling."

Tucker is joined by Stephen Gostkowski as placekickers. Shane Lechler and Johnny Hekker are the punters. Tyreek Hill and Sproles are the punt returners, while kickoff returners are Cordarrelle Patterson and Devin Hester.

Carroll and Bill Belichick are the coaches.

OMELAU'S

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opening week, had one in their match opposite the WNT (3-3), and made two in their shutout victory against the Island Star.

With Pagarao's five goals, Shirley's leads the division in the most goals scored (nine) and is followed by Island Star (four), Matansa (three), and WNT (three).

In Division A, Kanoa has gained 17 goals to pace the unbeaten TanHoldings (14), while Victory has tallied eight, and All Blue and Paire have seven each. The Old Bank has only scored two goals this season.

LIETOS

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League and was a regular all-star. He is a solid third baseman, incredible as a catcher, and always dangerous on the mound," Camacho said.

"He's a workhorse. Frankie will play hard, throw hard, and outlast anyone on the field. If you are playing the next day, you can count on Frankie to be ready and available again," the Braves official said.

Natural talent; fastball expert

Lamarc Iguel and John Tudela complete Camacho's Top 10 Braves players who made their marks in the Little League.

Camacho hailed Iguel's natural athletic talent, having come from a family of multi-sports athletes.

"He makes baseball look easy. He's so fluid and smooth in his position at shortstop. Lamarc is also an amazing infielder and fierce on the mound," Camacho said.

Another go-to guy on the mound for the Braves



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Former Braves player Lamarc Iguel waits for the pitch during a game in 2014 Saipan Major League.

was Tudela.

"He is an amazing lefty that strikes fear in batters he faced. John's command on the mound and his fastball is almost unparalleled to none," the Braves manager said.

If given a chance, Camacho would need a long list to name

Braves players who made significant contributions to the team's success in the Little League program.

"Obviously, there are many more players that have come and left the Little League program, each have their own accomplishments on the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frankie Lieto, right, poses with his Braves teammates and their supporters during a photo shoot for the squad in 2014.

field. Additionally, these fine gentlemen have greater accomplishments as valuable contributing members of our community. If I can, I do want to thank all the Braves players, past and present, and more importantly a great thank you to all the parents

and volunteers. It has been a wonderful journey for us and yet we have many more up-and-coming kids that are still in the Little League. It is our hope that we mold these kids into becoming great adults," Camacho said.

This season, the Braves

are supposed to play in the Minor, Majors, and Junior League divisions. If the 2020 competition pushes through, the Braves are encouraging Little League fans to watch up for Antonio Norita, Heath Camacho, Jylon Sablan, and Joel Borja.



Lietos, Evangelista deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Braves' success in the Saipan Little League Baseball was made possible by the ability of their players to play multiple positions and still excel whether they play infield or out, take the mound, or the plate.

The Lieto brothers, Peter and Frankie, and Alfonso Evangelista, are among the Braves' reliable hands regardless of where you placed them at the ballfield.



in the inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic in 2016.

The older Lieto, who is an officer with the Department of Corrections, was also utilized by the Braves both in the infield and out, while his jovial personality endeared him to his co-players and even opponents, and the program's volunteers.

"Peter knew everyone, players and adult volunteers, and everyone knew Peter. You can have confidence whenever he is playing for your team," Camacho said.

Though he idolized his older brother and they played together, Frankie managed to step out of the shadow of Peter.

"Frankie has always looked up to Peter, but developed his own game. Frankie captured the batting title in the Little

Peter was another threat to the opposing team when he's pitching for the Braves. He hurled for the CNMI National Team that won the gold medal

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this June 2016 file photo, Peter Lieto pitches for the CNMI National Team during their game against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Alfonso "A.J." Evangelista takes his time before throwing from the mound during the Braves' game against the Jets in the finals of the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Omelau's 8 goals top M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club striker Andruw Omelau has scored the most goals early in the 2020 Spring Men's M-League.

Omelau earned eight goals after three games in Division A of the league, which has been suspended since mid last month due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Marianas High School student debuted in the

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club's Andruw Omelau, right, seen here battling the ball against TanHoldings Football Club's Taka Borja during a game in a youth league at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, leads Division A of the 2020 Spring Men's M-League in the most goals scored so far early in the season.

league with a pair of goals in their 4-7 loss to TanHoldings and then battled back big time in Kanoa's second game after delivering five in their 10-6 triumph over Victory. In

their last match before the league was halted, Omelau was among the three Kanoa players who hit the board in their 3-0 win against the Old B Bank.

Behind Omelau by just two goals is TanHoldings Football Club's Martin Jambor. The TanHoldings player moved up to second place after firing five goals in their 17-0 demolition of Victory. Earlier in the opening week of the league, Jambor made one goal in their win over Kanoa.

Jambor's teammate, John Michael Rojas, is ranked No.

3 in the most goals scored so far this season after posting four, three of them came in their season-debut victory versus Kanoa.



Paire's Joe Miller and Victory's Bada Lee have three goals apiece to join Omelau and company in the battle for the Golden Boot award in Division A.

In Division B, Shirley's Football Club's Irish Pagarao is ahead with her five goals.

Pagarao leads her teammate, Minguang Xing, Matansa Football Club's Amzad Khan, and the CNMI Women's National Team's Jannah Casarino, who have two goals each.

Pagarao registered twin goals in their 4-1 win over Matansa during the league's

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